



LOCAL 237 NEWSLINE

Vol. 54, No. 1

Spring 2020

“ I do sincerely promise upon my honor as a trade unionist and Teamster that I will faithfully use all of my energies and abilities to perform the duties of my office... to preserve and strengthen democratic principles of our union and to protect the members’ interests in all dealings with employers. I will never forget that it is the members who put me here and it is the members whom I serve. ”



Oath of office administered by James P. Hoffa, General President of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT) to Local 237 President Gregory Floyd and members of the Executive Board (left to right): Trustees Cathy Rice, Benny Carezza and Curtis Scott; Recording Secretary, Jeanette Taveras; General President James P. Hoffa; Local 237 President Gregory Floyd; Vice President Ruben Torres and Secretary-Treasurer, Donald Arnold.

On January 17, 2020, Local 237—the largest local union in the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, which boasts more than 1.4 million members—held an installation of officers at its headquarters. **President James P. Hoffa** officiated. The lively proceedings featured: **MC George Miranda**, Vice President-at large of the IBT; the presentation of colors by **Lt. Wanda Carrington** and **Sgt. Mildred Palmer**; the Pledge of Allegiance by **Christopher Gaines**; a stirring musical rendition of “The House I Live In” sung by **Shanell Grayson**; an invocation by **Reverend Robert Royal** as

well as remarks by **Gregory Floyd** and several elected officials including New York Senator **Chuck Schumer**, US Congressman **Peter King**, New York State Comptroller **Thomas DiNapoli**, New York City Comptroller **Scott Stringer** and Manhattan Borough President **Gale Brewer**. President Floyd told the audience: “There’s no substitute for labor unions. We built the middle class. Today is not just about our victory at Local 237. We’re here to celebrate all unions and the role they play in improving the lives of working men and women.” Senator Schumer echoed the sentiments by saying:

“Everyday the middle class is hurting... the rich and the powerful have too much say in government. They’ve gone after the labor movement and the hard workers of unions and your leaders. I believe in you.” Congressman King called President Floyd “my long-time friend.” Comptroller DiNapoli thanked President Floyd in his capacity as pension fund trustee for “not letting us down.” Comptroller Stringer said about Local 237 and its leadership: “Today I am here to salute this amazing union, the rock of the city.” And BP Brewer called Local 237 “a force for social activism.” At the conclusion of the

ceremony, several guests joined President Floyd for one-on-one interviews on his weekly radio show “Reaching Out With Gregory Floyd”, which airs weekly on 570AM/The Mission on Saturdays at 4:30pm and on 970AM/The Answer on Saturdays at 7pm. This multi-part show includes the entire ceremony and interviews with NY1 Political Reporter, Errol Lewis, Comptroller DiNapoli, Council member Ben Kallos and President of the New York City Central Labor Council, Vincent Alvarez. It can be heard by going to: <https://omny.fm/shows/reaching-out/playlists/podcast>



IBT General President James P. Hoffa addresses the audience.

Gregory Floyd

George Miranda

Reverend Royal

“Reaching out...” guest Vincent Alvarez

Shanell Grayson

Gale Brewer

Tom DiNapoli

Scott Stringer

“Reaching out...” guest Ben Kallos

Joseph Addabbo (r)

Chuck Schumer and Executive Board

Gregory Floyd and Peter King

“Reaching out...” guest Tom DiNapoli

Hazel Dukes (l) and Roberta Reardon (r)

“Reaching out...” guest Errol Lewis

Ruben Diaz, Jr.

Mario Cilento, George Miranda and Tom DiNapoli

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

RETIRE 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.
Julie Kobi & Susan Milisits,
Co-Directors

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
Donald Arnold,
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

Why unions matter

By Gregory Floyd

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

It's hard to believe, but 5 years have passed since I was sworn into office. Standing in the same spot and having the oath administered again by our General President, James P. Hoffa, still conjured up that same feeling of pride. Yet, I had the sense that things were somehow very different.

So much has changed in the world around us. And, in so many ways the changes have not been for the better. I feel as though we live in a different city. Actually, we live in a different America. We've gotten colder toward one another. To some degree, we've become less sensitive to human suffering. There's just so much of it. The headlines bombard us with stories about gun violence, homelessness, hunger and predators of every kind. We may feel badly, but so many have just given up the hope to turn things around.

Added to that, our standards for what is acceptable or normal behavior have become less normal, and less acceptable to me. For example, School Safety Agents face a world of diluted standards every day. Behavior that previously would have resulted in at least a summons—like when a student brings bags of marijuana into school—today results in a toothless “Warning Card” which is not even a slap on the wrist!

Another thing that has really changed over the last five years which is a major concern to labor leaders like myself is the image of labor unions. Today, the problem of union bashers and busters has expanded. Now, we're not just fighting the corporate 1% and elected officials they help to put into office. We're fighting within our own base, many of whom wrongly claim that labor unions are not aggressive enough or progressive enough. They think that they can do better. To them I say: Read the history books. Check the facts. We have fought the big fights. And won! The 40-hour work week, safety guarantees, health benefits, paid vacation and a \$15 an hour minimum wage weren't just given to us. They are not in the Constitution or among the Ten Commandments. But, they have become practice, policy and law because of the push by unions.

There simply is no substitute for labor unions. We are still powerful and impactful. And union members are not the only ones who should agree. Recently, I attended a conference of financial advisors. Called to the podium for remarks, I started off by stating some true—but sad—facts about unions today: Labor union membership is at an all-time low. Today, only 10.5% of America's workers belong to a union. In the private sector, only 1 in 16 workers belong to a union. Compare that to peak years, in the 1950's, when union membership was at 40%. I went on to discuss some of our many victories, which I pointed out, although they were focused on worker rights, those rights are inextricably intertwined with civil rights. One needs to go no further than the fact that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated 52 years ago in Memphis, Tennessee, where he went to join striking sanitation workers fighting for fairness and dignity in the workplace. Indeed, labor victories are not only about labor. Nor are they just for union members. Our victories are for all workers. Keep in mind that recent studies have shown that, as union membership decreases, inequality increases. The Economic Policy Institute, for example, found that annual earnings for CEO's skyrocketed 940% since 1978, while the average worker's earnings only received a 12% bump for the same period of time.

Unfortunately, despite the evidence about why unions matter, efforts have accelerated to limit union power nationwide: In Wisconsin, with Governor Scott Walker's crack-down on the teachers union; in the south and mid-west, where a total of 28 “Right to Work” states passed laws making it illegal to compel workers to pay union dues, and, perhaps the biggest blow coming from the Supreme Court with its 2018 decision in the Janus case, ruling that public sector employees don't have to pay dues to be part of a union negotiating on their behalf. Luckily, here in New York, which has the highest percentage of union members in the nation—we're at 24%—our Governor, Andrew Cuomo, by executive order, signed into law provisions that made becoming a “free-loader” a little more difficult to do.

Today, I often hear the question of whether unions matter at all.

To me, the answer is a no-brainer and is why our swearing-in ceremony was so meaningful and symbolic. It's not just that union members earn, on average, 13% more than non-union workers. Nor is the answer that worker protections apply to all workers, union and non-union workers. No, the answer is not even about the peace of mind consumers have knowing that products and services are delivered by union workers and as such, come with a certain guarantee of quality assurance... (Wouldn't you prefer to live in a high rise built by union labor?) Yet, probably the most compelling argument on why unions matter is that they are an equalizing force in our national economy. Unions took a leadership role in getting this nation back on its feet following the Great Depression, and after World War II, unions played a pivotal role in building the stabilizing force of a strong middle class. Now, our unions battle to maintain that middle class so that our children and grandchildren—plus new citizens and long-time citizens, will be included. Volumes have been written about the American Dream. In my view, the middle class is the fulfillment of that dream. Labor unions help to keep that dream alive.

But for unions to have a strong role in the future, they need a strong voice in the present. And our vote is our voice. It's the best way to be heard. With so many offices up for election—from the White House to Borough Hall—this is really what some have called a “battle for the soul of our nation”—clearly, not an over-statement. And, labor unions have an important role in determining the outcome. If we want a nation where the law of the land includes everyone in it; a nation that pulls people up, not tears them apart; a nation of compassion, not cruelty; a nation in which it doesn't matter where you're from or how you started—unions have always been the go-to catalyst for change. With so much at stake, the problem is that, especially in this anti-union climate—which paints a public image of union membership as obsolete, ineffective and out of touch—we must ask ourselves: Are we headed for extinction or can labor unions take on the challenges before us? For me, the answer is summed up in the words of our General President James P. Hoffa as he was about to administer our Oath of Office. He said the oath was “a re-commitment to our members. Like renewing marital vows. As leaders, it's the time to ask yourself if you believe in this Oath. Are you sincere? We're here today because the answer is yes. So now, you have to look in the mirror and think about how we can make the lives of our members better. And despite the fact that we've all become a little jaded by some of the successes we've had along the way, know that we are Teamsters, and we just keep going on, and on and on.”

That's why we celebrate our new term of office. ■

LABOR COUNTS!
(SINDICATOS CUENTAN!)

WORKERS COUNT!
(TRABAJADORES CUENTAN!)

COMMUNITIES COUNT!
(COMUNIDADES CUENTAN!)

Our participation in the census is a powerful way to demonstrate our fundamental beliefs in our collective power, our ability to protect one another, and our voice.

GET COUNTED TODAY!

My2020census.gov

1-844-330-2020

2020 Members of the Team

**"The game of life is a lot like football. You have to tackle your problems, block your fears, and score points when you have the opportunity."
– Lewis Grizzard, sports writer**



Members of Local 237 are on the same team. They got together for the annual **Larry Abela** Pre-Super Bowl 'Wear Your Colors' photo and, despite a wide array of football teams represented, it was clear that their true team spirit had only one set of numbers—237. Team "Captain" President **Gregory Floyd** (center wearing white, with the number 26) quoted Vince Lombardi who said: "People who work together, win together whether it be against complex football defenses or the problems of modern society." Floyd went on to say that "Even though we may be rooting for different teams on the football field, feel confident that at work, our jerseys are no different. And, if you fumble we'll be there to help you do better. If you make a touchdown, we'll be there to cheer you on. Local 237 has your back—win, lose or draw."

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	Donald Arnold Secretary-Treasurer	Jeanette Taveras Recording Secretary
Curtis Scott Trustee	Benedict Carenza, Jr. Trustee	Catherine Rice Trustee	

Phyllis S. Shafran
Editor

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

IF YOU MOVE – Please send your change of address in writing to **Membership** to 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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!



Gisela "GiGi" Reyes (center) with well-wishers: **Donald Arnold**, **Jeanette Taveras**, **Phyllis Shafran** and **Ruben Torres**.



Jeanette Taveras



Anjolaoluwa Erhabor, the adorable daughter of School Safety Agent, **Belinda Erhabor** from Brooklyn South.

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



School Safety Agents (and Santa too) put a smile on youngsters' faces with the Staten Island Community Outreach Toy Giveaway at PS25.



Police Officers for Christ held its January Fellowship meeting in which **Yvonne Clarke**, School Safety Agent III, was installed as a member of the Executive Board. **Jeanette Tavares**, Local 237's Recording Secretary and Law Enforcement Business Agent and **Derek Jackson**, the Director of the Law Enforcement Division were on hand to wish her well.



Staten Island Explorers post leaders and the students in their program were honored at an awards ceremony in recognition for their hard work and dedication.



The School Safety Ceremonial Unit appears at many special events throughout New York City, including assisting with the School Safety graduation ceremony held in February.



The NYPD School Safety Division Community Outreach presented a workshop on virtual reality options to students of the Research and Service High School located on the campus of Boys and Girls High School. The "in reality" cupcakes donated by D's Southern Desserts, were enjoyed by all.



School Safety Agent III Davis and **School Safety Agent Bamberg** of the IS 291 Campus helped a young lady involved in gangs to turn her life around. On their own time, they attended a conference with the girl and her mother that featured a program dedicated to building self-confidence and making better choices. From right to left are: **SSA Broadwater**; **SCA Bamberg**; **Principal Mrs Pagee Cheung**; **SSA Sweeney-Adams**; **SSA3 Davis**; **program founder Mr. Arthur Samuels**; **SSA Barreto**; **SSA Ingram**, and **SSA Elliott**.

MARTIN VAN BUREN HIGH SCHOOL
- A Nobel Institution -



School Safety Agents did a most professional job in responding to an active shooter incident at Martin Van Buren High School during a fight outside of the school. Agents helped to break up the fight, secured the location, assisted the victim and provided calm to the frightened students. School Safety Agents pictured left to right: **Khami Punch**, Level 3; **Lacita Polite**; **Maria Charles**; **Peletiah Hardy-Davidson**; **Michael Mitchell**; **Laquanda Bell**; **SCA Shikiya Gerena**; **Michca Burke**; **Tanaisha Bethea**; **Robin Johnson** and **Roselee Harrison**.



Reported missing from the Woodhull Hospital Emergency Room were a total of five cardiac monitors--valued at \$100,000 in terms of costs, and invaluable to patient care. An intensive investigation was launched by the H+H Hospital Police, the NYPD Financial Crime Task Force and the Department of Investigations. After an exhaustive undercover operation, it was determined that the thefts were gang related and the equipment being sold overseas in a highly organized operation that targeted more hospitals for future thefts. On September 25, 2020, the main suspects were arrested. Pictured left to right are **Lt. David Sampson**, **Chief Rachel Evans** and **Lt. John Biagini** who were publically thanked for having helped to organize and conduct the successful grand larceny sting.



Census 2020 workshop for Shop Stewards, Business Agents and staff of Local 237 took place to help members understand the importance of being counted in the upcoming Census. An undercount for New York City will result in the loss of billions of Federal dollars that are used for vital programs for seniors to school children, to the roadway and mass transit. The goal of the session was to help Local 237 members understand what is at stake, which is the first step in knowing how important it is to participate in the count.

Condolences

to **Kayk Velez**, our Booking Assistant and her son, Devin Rohena, the Receptionist of the Welfare Fund on the passing of Mary Richardson, a most cherished mother and grandmother.

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

to **Maria Debraux**, a secretary in the Legal Department on the death of her beloved brother, Eduardo Torres.

to the family of **Cherrone M. Allen**, "Mac Q" a popular School Safety Agent I who worked in Manhattan South.



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:



Citywide Business Agent **George Wade** with central storehouse Supervisors: **Trevor Leid**, Supervisor Level 2, Stock Workers and Shop Steward; **Shawn Witten**, Supervisor, Motor Transport and **Jason Brewster**, Supervisor, Level 3, Stock Workers.



Jacobi Hospital Ultrasound Technologists in the Fetal Assessment Department: **Sanie Veseli**, **Maureen Anderson**, **Maria Olavarria** and **Mioche Boney**.



Woodhull Hospital Police Officers **McFarland** and **Harris**.



Staff member of the Membership and Welfare Fund Departments celebrate Ugly XMAS Sweater Day.



Bakers at Rikers Correctional Facility with Citywide Business Agent **George Wade** (left).



Citywide Business Agents **George Wade** (second on the left) and **Curtis Scott** (third from the right) with **Melvin Trotman**, Stock Worker Supervisor; and Stock Workers **Camel Lewis**, **Rahieme McLaurin** and **Robert Phillips**.



Citywide Business Agents **George Wade** (left) and **Curtis Scott** (right) with **Alex Leguillow**, Maintenance Worker, BMCC.



Citywide Business Agent **Curtis Scott** (second on the left) with DEP Water Use Inspectors.



Citywide Business Agent **Curtis Scott** (left) with DOE Roofers.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

In recognition of a Job Well Done

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



Fanay Sandoval-Aleman, Special Officer NYC H+H at Lincoln Hospital, was nominated “Employee of the Year” for her heroism involving the apprehension of a knife-wielding man running after another man outside of the hospital. This is not the first time Fanay’s professionalism has been recognized. She was previously honored during Peace Officer week and spotlighted as Lincoln’s “Star of the Month” in May, 2019.



In celebration of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., an “Inspirational Leadership Award” was given to **Donald Arnold**, Local 237’s Secretary-Treasurer on the Executive Board and Director of the Citywide Division, in recognition of his many years of dedicated service to working men and women. The honor was presented to Donald by Rev. Robert Royal, the Executive Director of Clergy and Citizens With A Purpose.



A “Distinguished Labor Leadership Award” was bestowed upon **Shanell Grayson**, Deputy Director of Local 237’s Education and Training Division by the Frederick E. Samuel Community Democratic Club. As suggested by Local 237 President, **Gregory Floyd**, Shanell was selected for this honor by New York State Senator Brian Benjamin in recognition of her positive attitude and infectious personality that are essential to fostering the next generation of labor leaders.



The John DeCarlo Award was presented to **Jason Flores**, Caretaker J of the Strauss Houses. Jason (center) is pictured with his colleagues who were present to celebrate his honor. Jason’s excellent attendance and “can-do” attitude on the job were the characteristics that qualified him for this award.

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

Added to the Roster of Retirees

ABELA, TRUE AND KANE

They represent decades of Local 237 history packed with many challenges and countless accomplishments. Together, they helped to change the trajectory of this union with lasting impact for generations to come. Thank you Larry, Nancy and Ed!



Larry Abela is set to throw a touchdown and his teammates ready for the play: (left to right) **Ruben Torres; Jose Rodriguez; Anthony Morano; Martin Cruz; Curtis Scott; Javier Franco; President Gregory Floyd; Donald Arnold and Ira Major.**



Members of the Kane family were on hand to help pay tribute to Ed, including: wife Karen; daughters Sarah and Rebeccah, and son Lucas.



Gregory Floyd presents Larry with a Randle jersey in recognition of his beloved team and player.



Nancy's gala retirement celebration honored her as a living legend. Among those present to wish her well and join in the festivities were Nancy's grandson, Isaac (top) and other members of her family and dearest friends (bottom).



Local 237 President **Gregory Floyd** presented a special plaque honoring Ed for his distinguished service.



School Safety Agents **Angel Barreto**, with PB Bronx East and **Dennis Foster** of PB Bronx West, served with honor for 37 and 42 years respectively. **Charlie Cotto**, Business Agent with the Law Enforcement Division, presented them citations of appreciation to each for a job well-done.



Anthony Baylor was a Caretaker J from Vladeck Houses before he retired after 27 years of dedicated service. At the time of his retirement in November, Public Housing Business Agent **Teresa Valentina** presented him with a retirement certificate.



Chief of Housing **James Secreto** had a retirement party attended by friends and colleagues, among them Dr. Bob Lee, radio host from WBLS/107.5 (left) and **Dwayne Montgomery**, Local 237's Director of Integrity.



Winsome Charles started working at HHC at Kings County Hospital in 1995. She retired with plans to visit her home county of Jamaica and credits her presence at a Local 237 pre-retirement Outreach Program by NYCERS as helping her become a happy retiree.



Cynthia Banfield was a Housing Assistant from Fordham Plaza. After 35 years of steadfast service to the residents, Cynthia has retired. To thank her, Public Housing Director, **Carl Giles** presented her with a certificate of appreciation for her service.

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:

SCHOOL SAFETY AGENTS GRADUATION, FEBRUARY 5



SSA III Jean Allison of the School Safety Ceremonial Unit; Local 237 Director of Law Enforcement, Derek Jackson; School Safety Chief Juanita Holmes and new graduate, Kayla Acevedo.



Class valedictorian, SSA I Liam O'Sullivan, with proud parents and Local 237 Director of Law Enforcement, Derek Jackson

SSA GRADS - COMPANY 19-12

Karis Grant, Company Sergeant
SSA III Lucretia Vereen, Official
Company Instructor

Kayla M. Acevedo, Md.Y Ali, Erica P. Arroyo, Davon J. Benjamin, Avijit J. Boiragee, Mildhren R. Cacoque, Maybel L. Cordova, Tapas C. Das, Karis Y. Grant, Briana C. Hines, Ashley M. Jimenez, Colby L. Laurel, Dajia R. Lugo, Muhammad M. Molla, Sabikun Nahar, Nadine E. Oquendo, De'adrah R. Patterson, Diane Ramirez, Laura A. Rieger, Christian W. Ruiz, Sourav C. Sen, Kijava S. Singletary, Walter T. Susswell, Ritamaria Vasquez and Imani S. Williams.

SSA GRADS - COMPANY 19-15

Jermaine M. Pippins, Company Sergeant
SSA III Ann Sanchez, Official Company Instructor

Sandra Aguirre, Nicolle Aracena, Farjana Bilkis, Melisa Britton, Thomas Castillo, Bintou Dabo, Darena M. Desir, Keishalue J. Forrester, Imahnni I. Hudgins, Maverna J. King, Rene T. Leshore, Justin R. Mims, Francesco G. Morrone, Kattisha B. Noel, Sergio A. Padilla, Jermaine M. Pippins, Destiny R. Rhoden, Chandon C. Rodriguez, Joseph T. Santagelo, Damar A. Simpson, Sophia L. Snell, Christy A. Trentini, Muhammad Usman, Matthew N. Villalobos, Sherisse S. Worthy and Quima J. Young.

SSA GRADS - COMPANY 19-13

Luilly J. Baez, Company Sergeant
SSA III Ayeshia Hawkins
Official Company Instructor

Daneth P. Adams, Carlos J. Almodovar, Luilly J. Baez, Brianna I. Bond Edward Capers, Erica C. Cruz, Lavonna N. Deese, Rosebelle Espinal, Christopher Giles, Danielle Gregory, Jinella S. Jackson, Shaeem S. Johnson, Peterson Lector, Shatisha Mclaurin, Diego Montejogonzalez, Genesis S. Negron, Priscelia D. Ortiz, Maria N. Penemarte, Gabriele E. Ramierez, Ana L. Rivas, Sonia Salhan, Tyra Shields Amir H. Smalls, Elwood L. Thomas Jasmine M. Vidal, Shaunte A. Williams and Richiemay Yncino.

SSA GRADS - COMPANY 19-14

Yajaira Cruz, Company Sergeant
SSA III Antoinette Charles
Official Company Instructor

Troy J. Adams, Salvatore A. Altobelli, Michael V. Balzano, Jumur Bhowmik, Mark A. Bran, Marisol Casquete Salazar, Yajaira Cruz, Michael J. Denio, Anthony A. Feliciano, Gabrielle F. Gonzalez, Crystal D. Hubbard, Buzina L. Jaffier, Jeff Legrand, Chantal M. Mctear, Shawn A. Moore, Zuleika Nieves, Liam T. O'Sullivan, Ana M. Perez Rodriguez, Michael F. Ramon, Tanisha N. Sanchez, Palash K. Shil, Javon C. Smith, Mabel Torres-Perez, Theresa A. Vigilarolo, Shanaya Wilson and Bariah A. Young.

SSA GRADS - COMPANY 19-16

Mohamed K. Palbalkar, Company Sergeant
SSA III Elvira Santiago, Official Company Instructor

Rumana Akther, Valerie Arocho, Bree B. Belle, Nicole Bravo, Marcus M. Burke, Crystal M. Connor, Narayan C. Das, Michael J. Donza, Mei Yu Francese, Briyanna A. Graham, Sharif M. Hasan, Masekul Islam, Akkissi G. Kouassi, Trevor E. Lovell, Anthony Martinez, Paul S. Oliveri, Mohamed K. Palbalkar, Kisha J. Richards-David, Jeetendra Singh, Jose A. Sosa Holguin, K M Zakiul M. Uddin, Lei Wang and Antoinette I. Wright.

HOSPITAL POLICE GRADUATION, FEBRUARY 20



Valedictorian, Special Officer Carlton Edwards with family members and Local 237 Director of Law Enforcement, Derek Jackson (left) and Director of Integrity, Dwayne Montgomery (right).



Delighted members of the graduating class.

SQUAD A: Iman Alobahi, Markeisha Avilez, Herby Bazile, Tyshon Bishop, Georaida Germosen, Bunny Joyce, Gerald Montanez, Herland Petion and Camile Watson.

SQUAD B: Eugena Cagler, Elizabeth Carreras, John Cortijo, Wilma Dore, Carlton Edwards, MD Moniruzzaman, Nicodemus Quarcoo and Majesty Williams.

SQUAD C: Vanity Estrada, Melvin Fason, Jawanda Green, Precious Lawes, Karima Ober, Lisa Romero, Jaison Samuel, Orville Thompson and Melvin Wright.

CUNY PEACE OFFICERS GRADUATION, MARCH 6

Kirolos Abdelsayed, Armand Alia, Manuel Andeliz, Mammadou R. Bah, Christopher Banks, Manual Batista, Philip Blount, Kamol Calliste, Felix Camacho, Lydia Cedras, Jason Chan, Stephen Clarke, Michelle Colon, Sarah Corro, Thomas Dang, Timika Davidson, Zahra De Souza, Anthony Egan, Carl Fayette, Shandel Frith, Elias Gebrehiwot, Katora Hunt, Michael Jarrett, Courtney Jones, Rakesh Karki, Joseph A. Kennedy, MD R. Khan, Kevin Lam, Ann Lantigua, Alexander Lois, Greeily Lopez-Bruno, Revlin Maxwell-Brown, Dwayne McLaren, Tonya McDonald, John W. McKee, Lance Miller, Jessica Mizhquiri, Lucille Morales, Kazi Moutoshi, Valmir Nikqi, Angelica Nunez, Justin Omubo-Dede, O'Brien Ortega, Tiffany Ottley, Nicholas Pacheco, Lenrietta D. Palmer, Olivia Paterson, Jean Paul, Narolin Pena, Jimmy Perez, Anthony Pestana, Byran Pitts, Kobe Powell, Damian Rapkowski, Collin Rodney, Jobany Rodriguez, Nathaly Rodriguez, Peter Rodriguez, Gabriel Ruiz, Ducal Russell, Joan Saint Jean, Jaime Silva, Andre Spence, Brian Sutton, Victor Toribio, Ryan Tuite, Gregory Vella, Cardinal Waithe, Daniello Wright and Peter Wright.



Local 237 President Gregory Floyd addresses the graduating class. He thanked them for their commitment to helping to create an educational environment that is both safe and nurturing.



Members of the graduating class as they take their oath of office.

GRADUATING CLASS OF EVIDENCE AND PROPERTY SPECIALISTS



Wishing them well are Local 237's Len Proctor, Deputy Director of the Welfare Fund (rear, left) and George Wade, Business Agent, Citywide Division with proud new Evidence and Property Specialists at the Police Academy.

Lift every voice and sing
 Till earth and heaven ring,
 Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
 Let our rejoicing rise
 High as the listening skies,
 Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
 Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past taught us.
 Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us,
 Facing the rising sun of our new day begun
 Let us march on till victory is won...

By James Weldon Johnson (1900)
 known as the Black National Anthem

BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2020

In February, throughout our nation, these words were sung in celebration of Black History month. On February 21, we sang these words too, as Local 237 hosted a pride-filled evening of African American history and culture. Among the highlights of the program was an awards ceremony to acknowledge the many accomplishments of our own members of African

American descent, who received the President's Award. In addition, a special honor, the Trailblazer Award, was bestowed upon Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, representative of the 9th District. The proceedings began with welcoming remarks from **Bertha Aiken**, Director of the Education Division, followed by MCs **Curtis Scott**, Board Trustee and Citywide Business Agent, **Ken Roper**, Housing Business Agent who kept the program moving along with their lively repartee. Inspiring musical presentations were made by **Shanell Grayson**, the Deputy Director of the Education Department, who sang "Lift Every Voice and Sing" and **Patrick Credle**, Caretaker J at the LaGuardia Houses, singing the "Star Spangled Banner". A special performance of "Guess Who's Coming" by Creator and Director, IMANI, and dancing to the beat of the Corey Wallace Organ Quartet, rounded out the evening's tribute to the many artistic accomplishments of African Americans. ▮

PRESIDENTS' AWARD RECIPIENTS:

- Henry Campbell**
Detective DHA, Law Enforcement Division
- Pamela L. Boylan**
Assistant Superintendent, Housing Division
- Barry W. Felton**
Captain Hospital Police, Law Enforcement Division
- Joseph T. Ford**
Educational Facility Officer, Law Enforcement Division
- Shanay Fulton-Ware**
Food Service Manager, Citywide Division
- Milton Hubbard, Jr.**
Custodian Long Island Division
- Allen L. Martino**
Senior Housekeeper, Citywide Division
- Gregory Reilly**
Maintenance Worker, Housing Division
- Cliffence C. Rush-Murphy**
Food Service Manager, Citywide Division



Henry Campbell and Gregory Floyd



Pamela L. Boylan and Gregory Floyd



Barry W. Felton and Gregory Floyd



Jeanette Taveras and Gregory Floyd accepting the award for Joseph T. Ford.



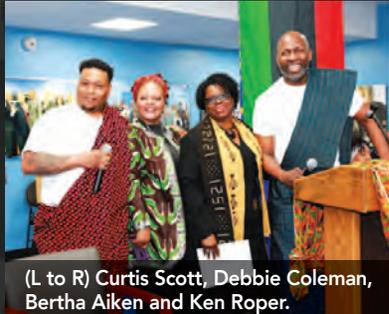
K TH O



Gregory Floyd and Congresswoman Yvette Clark



Shanell Grayson



(L to R) Curtis Scott, Debbie Coleman, Bertha Aiken and Ken Roper.



Patrick Credle



Shanay Fulton-Ware and Gregory Floyd



Milton Hubbard, Jr. and Gregory Floyd



Allen L. Martino and Gregory Floyd



Gregory Reilly and Gregory Floyd



Cliffence C. Rush-Murphy and Gregory Floyd





LONG ISLAND REPORT



Benny Carenza with Liaison for North Babylon Buildings and Grounds **Chris LoSardo** who is doing a great job for the members.



Benny Carenza with Half Hollow Hills Custodian **Greg Vaccaro, Jr.** who does a great job at High School East!



Benny Carenza with **Ellen Schwartz** who retired as a Computer Aide from the Plainview Old Bethpage School District **Rep. Susan Rusinek** presented the plaque.



Benny Carenza with **Judy Landow** who retired as an Aide from the Plainview Old Bethpage School District.



Benny Carenza with North Babylon member **Virginia Bell** who does a great job for the school district.



Plainview Old Bethpage Aides and Building and Grounds members pass their contracts by huge margins. Congrats!



Brentwood School District member **Vida Runko** retires as a custodian.



The custodians at Half Hollow Hills High School East have been going above and beyond to protect the community and staff under the the leadership of their Chief Custodian **Anthony Trezza**. Special thanks to all the Teamsters that go above and beyond!



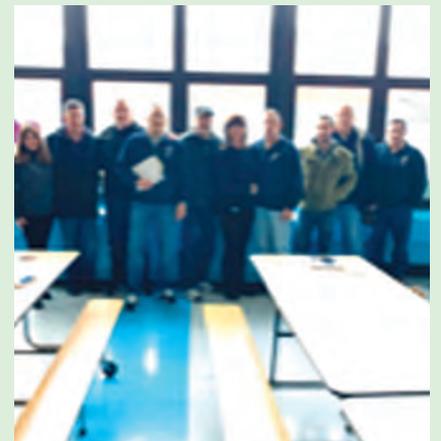
Brentwood Schools Food Service union meeting. Great members.



North Babylon members **Chris LoSardo, Anthony (the mailman) Saturno and Lou Ferrandino** attending a Long Island organizing drive meeting.



Port Jefferson School District members attending our annual February break luncheon.



North Babylon School District's Sunday morning union meeting. Great members that come out for their union on a Sunday!



Benny Carenza with **Linda Armour** who retired from the North Babylon School District after 30 years as a custodian.



Half Hollow Hills School District food service labor management meeting.



Brian Lassman, Driver Messenger from the Brentwood School District retires.

POLITICAL AND LABOR NEWS

Governor Cuomo's Agenda for the 21st Century

In his 10th State of the State Address, entitled: "Making It Happen", Governor Andrew Cuomo presented a nation-leading progressive agenda that was fiscally responsible while advancing bold ideas to invest in the 21st Century. Among the chief components of his agenda: Improvements to the state's infrastructure; cutting middle class and small business taxes; providing educational opportunity; lowering prescription drugs prices; growing a green economy; streamlining the court system; automatic voter registration and proposals to safeguard against domestic terrorism. Governor Cuomo's far-sweeping agenda also included legislation for aiming at improving the lives of working men and women such as: Establishing paid sick leave; protecting "Gig" economy workers and ensuring equal pay at State and Local Authorities.



As the Governor noted: "Our ship of state is stronger than it was in decades, but the ocean we navigate is a tempest tossed as we have seen... New York is the progressive capital of the nation and we must fulfill that destiny again this year."

The Governor's agenda will be revised at a yet to be determined date, due to the Coronavirus crisis.

CONTRACTS RATIFIED



JAVITS PSO

Shop Stewards Saarah Adu-Gymamfi (second from the left) and Kwame Kensah (middle) give a "thumbs-up" to the contract ratified for full-time Public Safety Officers working at the Jacob Javits Convention Center. The Shop Stewards are pictured (left to right) with Local 237's Lawrence Bosley, Senior Counsel; Andre Green, Deputy Director of the Law Enforcement Division and Donald Arnold, Director of the Citywide Division and Secretary Treasurer of the Executive Board. These contracts lock-in for a full six year period — from February 1, 2020 through January 31, 2026—zero employee contributions for members' health insurance costs. ■



SUPERVISORS OF BRICKLAYERS AND BRICKLAYERS

A very pleased David Valadez, Technical Advisor of Supervisors of Bricklayers and Bricklayers, displaying the contract that was unanimously ratified by the members. Pictured with Valadez are Housing Business Agent Norberto Luna (center) and Donald Arnold, Director of the Citywide Division and Secretary Treasurer of the Executive Board. ■



SUPERVISORS OF ROOFERS AND ROOFERS

Thumbs up! Contract unanimously ratified by the members. Durey Housen, Roofer and Anthony Vecchi, Technical Advisor of Supervisors of Roofers and Roofers are pictured with Local 237 Senior Counsel Martha Bodhnarain; Donald Arnold, Director of the Citywide Division and Secretary Treasurer of the Executive Board and Housing Business Agent Norberto Luna. ■

FLOYD RECEIVES THE CHARLES B. RANGEL LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Charles B. Rangel Leadership Award acknowledges the unique and selfless leaders in our communities, cities and nation. Among the honorees, was Local 237 President Gregory Floyd, who was recognized as a fearless leader, who has been working for more than three decades on behalf of his members, who are public employees working for nearly every municipal agency throughout New York City and on Long Island. ■



Local 237 President Gregory Floyd at the podium to give remarks upon receiving his award.



Democratic State Committeeman Londel Davis; honoree District Council 37 President Shaun D. Francois 1; honoree Local 237 Gregory Floyd; NYS Assemblywoman Inez E. Dickens; honoree former SUNY Board Chairman H. Carl McCall; retired Congressman Charles Rangel; Local 299 President Jackie Rowe-Adams and Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer.

Psychological Self-Care in the Wake of the Coronavirus Outbreak



By Ayana Ali

Director Local 237- Social Services

The other day, I mentioned to someone that for the world to be so vast, it often seems incredibly small. It used to be that the risks of coming in contact with certain illnesses was almost entirely regional and people often felt insulated depending on where they lived or travelled to. But today, regardless of where we live, the spread of the Coronavirus proves that we are all living a global existence. The mounting discussions and access to information about it have been overwhelming. If you find yourself nervous about the potential spread of virus or confused as to how you should best protect your peace of mind during this time, read on.

Here are some tips on how to best deal with your feelings and concerns during what for many is a frightening time.

1. BE INFORMED

- Gain information from reputable sources such as the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the National Institute of Health (NIH). Learn about appropriate safety precautions as well as important facts about how the virus is spread. Then you will be able to discern fact from fiction.

2. BE PREPARED

- Make a plan with your family and/or friends that can be acted on should your region declare a state of emergency or issue a shelter-in-place order.
- If you or your pets take maintenance medications, keeping a two week supply available is recommended.
- Consult the American Red Cross website regarding what is recommended to have on hand at your home should a quarantine be ordered.
- Have a certain amount of cash on hand for unforeseen spending needs during a time when bank branches may be closed.

3. BE COMPASSIONATE

- Don't beat yourself up for feeling anxious or concerned. Similarly, do not disparage anyone one who is struggling with their own anxiety about this. We are all human and these are scary times.
- Do not dismiss or try to tamp down your feelings about this. It is possible to acknowledge your feelings without the worry becoming out of control. It is not wrong to think about this important issues.

4. BE MINDFUL OF TRIGGERS

- Don't engage in information overload. Perhaps reading updates twice daily is sufficient. Is it better for you to limit your news consumption to once in the morning and once in the evening? Know when to limit information overload.
- Avoid engaging in conversations about the virus with conspiracy theorists or overly negative people as it can inspire paranoia.
- If you see someone in your vicinity who is wearing a mask or coughing and it's raising your anxiety, if you can, move to another location or make certain to use sanitizer or wash your hands as soon as you can.

5. BE HOPEFUL

- Hope for the best. Don't expect the worst.

6. BE PROACTIVE

- If you feel overwhelmed by the news about the Coronavirus, contact a counselor, therapist or psychiatrist to get additional support.

If you want to find out how to access counseling services, please contact me, Ayana Ali, LCSW, at 212-924-7220 or aali@local237.org I am also Spanish speaking and can provide assistance to members who are more comfortable speaking in Spanish. ■



BENEFIT IMPROVEMENTS for March 1 & May 1, 2020

By Mitch Goldberg

Director of the Welfare Fund

In an ongoing effort to improve benefits, the Board of Trustees of the Teamsters Local 237 Welfare Fund is pleased to announce the following enhancements to your benefits under the Fund:

On December 5, 2019 the Board of Trustees voted to increase the allowance for the Optical Benefits for all active members. The allowance will be increased to \$150 once per year for the member and each eligible dependent from the current \$100 once per year for the member and each eligible dependent.

The \$150 allowance is effective as of March 1, 2020. Hopefully this will help all members eliminate or reduce any out of pocket costs for the purchase of new frames and lenses. While the full cost of some frames (e.g., designer frames) and lenses (e.g., Varilux) choices will still require a copay but that cost should be decreased due to the increased payment toward materials in general. Surcharges will be applied for the following:

— Polycarbonate single vision	\$25.00
— Hi index Single Vision	\$50.00
— Polycarbonate multifocal	\$30.00
— Hi index Multifocal	\$60.00
— Plastic photosensitive single vision	\$60.00
— Varilux Comfort 2 Progressive	\$90.00
— Plastic photosensitive multifocal	\$65.00
— Polarized Single Vision	\$70.00
— Standard AR coating	\$35.00
— Polarized Multi Focal	\$75.00
— Additional 6 month supply of covered contact lenses	\$175.00

This is not a complete list of items with a surcharge but a list of the most common options chosen as upgrades to our basic allowance.

Optical vendors in the network can be located in several ways. Via the CPS website www.cpsoptical.com. "Find a Provider" or on the Teamsters Local 237 website www.local237.org. Under the Benefits tab choose NYC Agencies then

scroll down to Welfare Fund Optical Plan which will take you to the "Find a Provider" link. Find Local237 on the "Select Your Plan" pulldown menu, enter your zip code and submit. If you do not have internet access or want to speak to a CPS representative to find a location please call CPS at (212) 675-5745.

Effective May 1, 2020, the \$11,000 member life insurance benefit will be replaced by a \$15,000 benefit insured through a group term life insurance policy from Met Life. The spousal benefit will remain at \$5,000. The dependent benefit will be increased from the current \$1,000 to \$5,000. One key feature of our plan design with Met Life is Will Preparation Services offered by MetLife Legal Plans. Eligible members who enroll for coverage will have access to MetLife's network of participating plan attorneys to complete or update Wills, Living Wills, Health Care Proxy and Power(s) of Attorney for themselves and their spouses/domestic partners. This benefit is also offered through the Teamsters Legal Services Division. MetLife Estate Resolution Services offered by MetLife Legal Plans is a standard feature. It provides access to the services of an attorney to probate the estates of the Insured and the Insured's spouse/domestic partner. MetLife Travel Assistance to complement your MetLife insurance coverage, you have access to Travel Assistance services, a unique program where you and covered family members can contact AXA representatives to administer emergency medical, travel and personal assistance services on your behalf wherever you are in the world.

The Board of Trustees hopes everyone utilizes the benefits provided by the Welfare Fund. Hopefully, we can continue providing benefit improvements in the near future. The Board's focus is to reduce or eliminate out of pocket costs for the benefits we provide to ease your financial burden. ■



Our Estates in the Digital Era

By Ken Perry, Esq.

Deputy Director Legal Service Plan

Increasingly, most people have on-line accounts and records. What happens to these on-line accounts when we die? Our loved ones may be denied access to our on-line accounts, such as emails and bank accounts, after we die. It is important to keep a record of our passwords, account numbers, log-ins and Personal Identification Numbers (PINS). But where, and how, should we store this information? This information should NOT be included in your Will. When a Will is probated, it becomes a public document where anyone could access your private account information.

Probably the easiest place to store this vital information is someplace safe at home like a fire-proof safe. Another option is an on-line password storage service. Just like with your Will, you should not store this information in a safe deposit box. Many don't realize your loved ones will need a Court Order to access a bank safety deposit box.

You should make a list of your important accounts so your survivors won't miss something.

Examples include: Computers; email accounts; bank and financial accounts; cell phones and other electronic devices; and, online services (online storage, records, pictures, etc).

What about a Facebook account? One of two things can happen — either the account can be deleted or the profile can be memorialized. When memorialized, no new contacts can be added but all posts are still available to those they were shared with. The word "remembering" will appear next to the deceased's name. Also, if privacy settings allow it, people can post memories to the profile. Every Facebook user can designate a Legacy Contact from the account settings. This means you can designate who you choose to look after your account and profile after your death. You can also designate this person in your Will.

Increasingly, our lives are being lived on-line. Don't overlook what may be important assets or meaningful memories of our loved ones.

For questions, please contact your Legal Services Plan at (212) 924-1220. ■



Keeping you in the know



THE CENSUS HAS BEGUN!

By Julie Menin

Executive Director NYC Census 2020

The census has begun! Starting March 12th every household in the United States will receive a form in the mail inviting them to fill out the census. For the first time in census history, you can fill out the census online at my2020census.gov or by phone at 844-330-2020.

You may ask what is the census and why does it matter? The census is a constitutionally mandated count of every person living in the United States, regardless of immigration status. The census is a large mobilization that our country undertakes every 10 years and is so much more than just a count! The census is easy, safe and important. The information the Census Bureau collects is 100% confidential. The Trump Administration knows what's at stake with the 2020 Census, which is why they attempted to add a citizenship question, an effort specifically designed to spread fear and depress participation. The City of New York, one of the plaintiffs on the case along with others, fought to ensure this question was removed.

The census is 10 questions that take less than 10 minutes to answer and will impact the next 10 years. The census not only determines how billions of dollars in critical funding is distributed to communities across the country, it also determines political representation on the local, state, and national levels. In 2010, New York City was undercounted with a self-response rate of 61.9%, approximately 15 points below the national average. If we face another undercount in 2020, New York City stands to lose a seat in congress and funding for roads, bridges, schools, hospitals, emergency services, senior centers, and much more, which is why we need to do better!

As trusted voices in your community, we need your help! One great way to get involved is to join your local Neighborhood Organizing Census Committee (NOCC). You can sign up for your NOCC by going to our website nyc.gov/census and entering your address into our interactive map. By signing up for your NOCC, you will be joining more than 5,000 other New Yorkers working to organize their neighborhoods through phone-banking, text-banking, and street canvassing. Another great way to help is by joining the Census Bureau as a census taker. They're still hiring, so now is the time to get involved! The pay is up to \$25/hour in NYC, and the schedule is flexible.

No matter who you are, where you're from, or what language you speak, you have the right to be counted. To receive our fair share of resources, everyone needs to be counted. That means everyone who is living in your home, whether they are on the lease or not, whether they are documented or undocumented, immigrant or citizen, English speaker or English learner. Everyone in your household needs to be counted! But we only have one chance to get it right. Luckily, we know that when Teamsters organize, there's nothing that can stop us. Join us in the fight — let's make it count! ■



Shape our children's future. Start with the 2020 Census.

Young children experience new adventures each day, and little ones need all of the support they can get during these early years.

Responding to the 2020 Census is an easy, safe, and important way to help provide resources for children and their communities for the next 10 years.

Everyone living in the United States is asked to complete a simple questionnaire every ten years that asks for basic information about the people who live or sleep in their home. Children under the age of five, however, are often missed.

Young children who are missed in the census tend to live with large, extended families or with multiple families living under one roof. When newborn babies and children are not counted, support for programs such as health insurance, hospitals, childcare, food assistance, schools, and early childhood development is impacted.

Responding to the census is easier than ever. You can complete the census questionnaire online, by phone, or by mail.

And remember, just as you protect the children in your care, the U.S. Census Bureau protects your information. The Census Bureau is required by law to protect any personal information collected and keep it strictly confidential. All Census Bureau staff take a lifetime oath to protect your personal information and any violation of this oath comes with a penalty of up to \$250,000 and/or up to five years in prison.

Start shaping their future by going to 2020CENSUS.GOV.

Shape your future
START HERE >

United States
Census
2020



READY TO RETIRE? Apply online with Social Security

By Anny Rosario Diaz Assistant District Manager, Social Security in Downtown Manhattan

It's never too early to start planning for retirement and our online tools can help. Go to www.socialsecurity.gov/my-account to access your *my Social Security* account to get a personalized estimate of your retirement benefits based on your earnings record. Once you have an account, you can use our Retirement Calculator, to check on how your benefits change at different ages. Don't have a *my Social Security* account? You can create one at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount or you can use our online Retirement Estimator to get benefit estimates at www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator.

You can also use your *my Social Security* account to see your entire work history to be sure we have all of your wages recorded correctly, which is important because we base your benefit amount on the earnings reported to us. If you find an error with your work history, read this publication for more information: www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10081.pdf

When you're ready to apply for Social Security retirement benefits, you can conveniently complete our online application in as little as 15 minutes at www.socialsecurity.gov/benefits/retirement. We will contact you if we need any further information. You can check the status of your application through your online account.

You can apply online for Social Security retirement benefits, or benefits as a spouse, if you:

- Are at least 61 years and 9 months old.
- Are not currently receiving benefits on your own Social Security record.
- Have **not** already applied for retirement benefits.
- Want your benefits to start no later than 4 months in the future. (We cannot process your application if you apply for benefits more than 4 months in advance)

Find out more about our online services at www.socialsecurity.gov/onlineservices. ■

Personal Notes

As of January 13, 2020, **Carlos Cotto** received an increase in salary. His new salary is \$1,288 per week (\$66,976 per year).

Resumen En Español

“Prometo sinceramente por mi honor como sindicalista y camionero que usaré fielmente todas mis energías y habilidades para cumplir con los deberes de mi cargo... para preservar y fortalecer los principios democráticos de nuestro sindicato y para proteger los intereses de los miembros en todos los tratos con los empleadores. Nunca olvidaré que son los miembros quienes me pusieron aquí y que son los miembros a quienes sirvo.”



Juramento del cargo administrado por James P. Hoffa, Presidente General de la Fraternidad Internacional de Camioneros (IBT) al Presidente del Local 237 Gregory Floyd y a los miembros del Consejo Ejecutivo (de izquierda a derecha): Fideicomisarios Cathy Rice, Benny Carenza y Curtis Scott; Secretaria de Actas, Jeanette Taveras; Presidente General James P. Hoffa; Presidente del Local 237 Gregory Floyd; Vicepresidente Ruben Torres y Secretario-Tesorero, Donald Arnold.

El 17 de enero del 2020, el Local 237, el mayor sindicato local de la Fraternidad Internacional de Camioneros, que cuenta con más de 1.4 millones de miembros, tuvo una designación de oficiales en su sede. El Presidente **James P. Hoffa** presidió la ceremonia. El animado procedimiento presentó a: **MC George Miranda**, Vicepresidente General de IBT; la presentación de los colores por la **Teniente Wanda Carrington** y el **Sargento Mildred Palmer**; el Juramento de Lealtad por **Christopher Gaines**; una conmovedora interpretación musical de “La Casa en la que Vivo” cantada por **Shanell Grayson**; una invocación por el **Reverendo Robert Royal**, así como las

declaraciones de **Gregory Floyd** y varios funcionarios electos, entre ellos el Senador de Nueva York **Chuck Schumer**, el Congresista Estadounidense **Peter King**, el Contralor del Estado de Nueva York **Thomas DiNapoli**, el Contralor de la Ciudad de Nueva York **Scott Stringer** y la Presidenta del Condado (BP) de Manhattan **Gale Brewer**. El Presidente Floyd dijo a la audiencia: “No hay sustituto para los sindicatos. Construimos la clase media. Hoy no se trata sólo de nuestra victoria en el Local 237. Estamos aquí para celebrar todas los sindicatos y el papel que juegan en el mejoramiento de la vida de los hombres y mujeres trabajadores.” El Senador Schumer hizo eco

de los sentimientos diciendo: “Todos los días la clase media está sufriendo... los ricos y los poderosos tienen mucho que decir en el gobierno. Han ido tras el movimiento laboral y los trabajadores de los sindicatos y sus líderes. Yo creo en ustedes.”

El Congresista King llamó al Presidente Floyd “mi gran amigo.” El Contralor DiNapoli agradeció al Presidente Floyd en su calidad de fideicomisario del fondo de pensiones por “no decepcionarnos.” El Contralor Stringer dijo sobre el Local 237 y su liderazgo: “Hoy estoy aquí para saludar a este increíble sindicato, la piedra de la ciudad.” Y la BP Brewer llamó al Local 237 “una fuerza para el activismo social.” Al final

de la ceremonia, varios invitados se unieron al Presidente Floyd para entrevistas individuales en su programa de radio semanal “Alcanzando con Gregory Floyd”, que sale al aire semanalmente en 570AM/La Misión los sábados a las 4:30pm y en 970AM/La Respuesta los sábados a las 7pm. Este programa multiparte incluye la ceremonia completa y entrevistas con el Reportero Político de NY1, Errol Lewis, el Contralor DiNapoli, el Miembro del Consejo Ben Kallos y el Presidente del Consejo Central Laboral de la Ciudad de Nueva York, Vincent Álvarez. Se puede escuchar en: <https://omny.fm/shows/reaching-out/playlists/podcast>

LABOR COUNTS!
¡SINDICATOS CUENTAN!
#COUNTUSALL

WORKERS COUNT!
¡TRABAJADORES CUENTAN!

Nuestra participación en el censo es la mejor manera de demostrar que creemos en nuestros valores fundamentales de nuestra comunidad, para protegernos unos a otros y el poder de nuestra voz.

No hay pretextos es totalmente en español

¡HAZTE CONTAR, YA!

My2020census.gov

1-844-330-2020

COMMUNITIES COUNT!
¡COMUNIDADES CUENTAN!

El Presidente General de IBT, James P. Hoffa, se dirige a la audiencia.

Gregory Floyd

George Miranda

Reverendo Royal

Shanell Grayson

Gale Brewer

Tom DiNapoli

Scott Stringer

Joseph Addabbo (r)

Hazel Dukes (l) y Roberta Reardon (r)

Ruben Diaz, Jr.

Mario Cilentto, George Miranda y Tom DiNapoli

Chuck Schumer y la Junta Ejecutiva

Gregory Floyd y Peter King

“Alcanzando...” invitado Vincent Alvarez

“Alcanzando...” invitado Ben Kallos

“Alcanzando...” invitado Tom DiNapoli

“Alcanzando...” invitado Errol Lewis



An exciting benefit for Local 237 members



Purchasing Power, offered by Local 237, can help you get the things you need now, without the credit checks and ballooning interest that can hold you back. Shop thousands of products, from appliances, electronics and more. **Pay over time through payroll deduction.**

Shop now at www.Local237.PurchasingPower.com or call 1-888-923-6236



Appliances
starting at
\$45/payment**



Patio Furniture
starting at
\$31/payment**



Headphones
starting at
\$22/payment**



Phones
starting at
\$21/payment**

Can I Participate?

- You must be at least 18 years of age
- You must be an active full-time or part-time employee of the City of New York for at least 9 months, and an active member of Local 237
- You must earn at least \$16,000 a year
- You must have a bank account or credit card (to be used in case of non-payment via payroll deduction)

Scan the QR Code with your cell phone camera to learn more



\$500 PRIZE

2020 STUDENT LABOR JOURNALISM AWARD

THE NEW YORK METRO LABOR COMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL is offering a **\$500 prize** for work by undergraduate and graduate students on the theme: **"The 2020 Elections and My Life/My Community"**

THE COUNTRY IS about to elect a president in November; additional state and local elections will take place. How will this impact your life and/or the life of your community/communities. What issues are most important to you and are candidates talking about them? You are encouraged to write or make a short video or audio recording about the impact of these elections on you—as a student, a worker, and that of your family or community.

The prize is given to the student whose work touches our emotions and/or brings insight to this issue. The prize will be awarded for a written article of approximately 1200 words, or for a video or audio report of two to six minutes. The topic is wide open for you to explore.

The winners will be honored at our annual convention in New York City on **June 5, 2020**

APPLICATION DEADLINE: May 4, 2020

Please include your name and the school you are attending. Students do not need to be journalism majors.

Send entries to:

Margarita Aguilar
341 West 24 Street, #5D
New York, NY 10011

or email it to: metrolabornyc@gmail.org

For more information and to apply, please contact:

Margarita Aguilar: 212-982-0574 or metrolabornyc@gmail.org

ESTABLISHED IN 1974, the Metro New York Labor Communications Council (Metro) includes union communications professionals, who work for the city's public and private-sector unions and other organizations representing working people. They are editors and reporters, photographers and graphic designers, broadcast producers and public relations specialists. Metro provides a forum to discuss pressing issues in the labor movement, and shares ideas on how labor communicators can tell the story of working people.



PERIODICALS
POSTAGE PAID
AT NEW YORK, NY

DATED MATERIAL SPRING 2020

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 _____



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

LOCAL 237 CARES
Information for Local 237 about the Coronavirus

We hope that you and your loved ones are doing well in this most difficult time. While coping with this pandemic crisis is seen world-wide, we want you to know that Local 237 is especially concerned about you and your family. Your well-being is our priority. It is because of our concern for members and staff that our headquarters are closed and union meetings have been cancelled, BUT our commitment to Local 237 members is unwavering. Local 237 will continue to provide unrelenting representation, benefits and legal services. For any concerns or questions, don't hesitate to call the union at **(212) 924-2000**. For Welfare Funds call **(212) 924-7220**. Also, you can contact your Business Agent by email (www.local237.org/union-reps)

**All information presented here reflects some of what is known about this new virus as of date of publication. We will continue to provide updated alerts as we learn more.*

As predicted by the World Health Organization (WHO), there are now a small number of people in New York City, and in various parts of the US, who have tested positive for the coronavirus.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), along with agencies from states and municipalities across the country, are working together to educate all of us on best practices we can use to stem the tide of this virus. While we may not know everything about the virus, there are many things we do know that could help to reduce the risk of infection.

Below is a factsheet from the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYCDOHMH); Please read and share with your family, friends and community members. The union is working with employers to ensure that we are kept informed of the agencies' response plans, which are still in formation due to the fast-changing nature of this outbreak. We will continue to post information as we receive it.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT COVID-19 – Novel Coronavirus

- Coronaviruses are a family of viruses that cause mild illnesses like a cold, to more serious illnesses like pneumonia.
- Infections with this new virus have been reported in many countries, including the U.S. For an updated list of affected areas, visit www.cdc.gov/coronavirus.
- The virus is likely to be spread from person to person, but it is currently unclear how easily it spreads.
- Commonly reported symptoms include fever, cough, and shortness of breath.
- Most people (80%) with COVID-19 will feel like they have a bad cold or the flu. Some people will require hospitalization. People who are at most risk for severe illness are elderly or have other health conditions.

WHAT SHOULD NEW YORKERS DO?

- New Yorkers who have non-essential jobs should stay at home and only go out for essential needs such as medicine and food
- Get the flu shot—it's not too late. Although the flu shot will not protect you from COVID-19, it will help prevent the flu which has similar symptoms to this coronavirus.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands).
- Wash hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Do not touch your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- If you feel sick, stay home.
- If you have fever, cough and/or shortness of breath, and recently traveled to an area with ongoing spread of coronavirus, or have been in close contact with someone who has recently traveled to any of those areas, go to your doctor.
- If you have these symptoms, but no travel history, stay home and call your doctor. If you need connection to a health care provider, call 311.
- Hospital staff will not ask about immigration status. Receiving health care is not a public benefit identified by the public charge test.

WHAT CAN INTERNATIONAL TRAVELERS DO TO PROTECT THEMSELVES?

- International travel is now limited to Americans returning home.
- If you were recently outside of the U.S and do not have a fever, cough and/or shortness of breath, monitor yourself for symptoms. If they develop consult your doctor.
- If you were recently outside of the U.S. and have a fever, cough and/or shortness of breath, consult your doctor.

IF YOUR DOCTOR ASKS YOU TO STAY HOME:

- Avoid going in public, to school or to work until you have been fever-free for at least 72 hours without the use of fever reducing drugs like Tylenol or ibuprofen.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve, not with your hands.
- Wash hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE SEPARATE FACTS FROM FEAR AND GUARD AGAINST STIGMA.

A lot of information circulating about coronavirus on social media and even in some news reporting is not based in the facts. Support your friends, neighbors and colleagues by proactively sharing this message and countering misinformation. Obtain information about COVID-19 from trusted sources like the NYC Health Department, the CDC, and the World Health Organization (WHO).

If you are being harassed due to your race, nation of origin or other identities, you can report discrimination or harassment to the NYC Commission on Human Rights by calling 311 and saying "human rights."

If you are experiencing stress or feel anxious, contact NYC Well at 888-NYC-WELL (888-692-9355) or text WELL to 65173. NYC Well is a confidential help line that is staffed 24/7 by trained counselors who can provide brief supportive therapy, crisis counseling, and connections to behavioral health treatment, in more than 200 languages. The NYC Health Department may change recommendations as the situation evolves

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

New York City Department of Health <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/coronavirus.page>
 The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention www.cdc.gov
 World Health Organization www.who.int OSHA www.osha.gov

follow local 237
find us at @local237 on facebook and instagram