



LOCAL 237

NEWSLINE

Vol. 59, No. 2

Summer 2025

Recharge, Relax, Reconnect

By Gregory Floyd

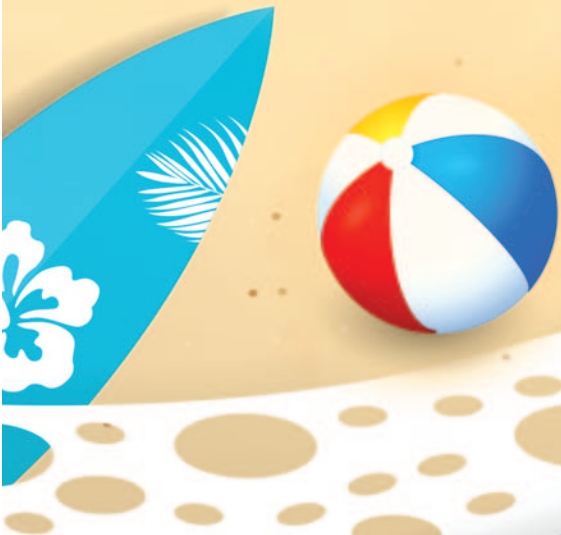
President, Teamsters Local 237 and Vice President-at-Large on the General Board of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters

"Summertime and the Livin' is Easy" the famous opening words from George Gershwin's opera classic, Porgy and Bess, with lyrics written by DuBose Heyward and Ira Gershwin, musically portrays Summer as a time to rid ourselves of winter blues. It's when we lighten up our clothing and hopefully, lighten up our spirits too. Summer is a time to re-energize, re-fuel, relax and re-connect with family and friends. Summer is when so many of us take some well-deserved "R&R". It's when the days are longer...and we change the thermometer from "heat" to "air condition". It just seems like there's more time to do the things we love without the worry that a snowstorm may cancel it all. For many, Summer's sun brings optimism and calm thereby replacing the gloom and doom some experience during Winter's often long and frigid nights.

There's also an abundance of scientific evidence that attests to the physical and mental health benefits of summer and the self-imposed "time out" it inspires so many people to take. Scientists have long observed that the Vitamin D that sunny weather provides is essential for the regulation of calcium and phosphorus absorption, the maintenance of healthy bones and teeth, and also proves to have a positive effect in the fight against many diseases, such as cancer, diabetes and multiple sclerosis. And research shows that summertime can help reverse the negative mood and depression often caused by the social isolation that winter months, severe weather and fewer hours of daylight can bring.

So, let's take some inspiration from the words of Bob Marley when he sang: **"Sun is shining. Weather is sweet. Make you wanna move your dancing feet"**. Or, how about heeding the advice of the Beatles who warned: **"But tomorrow may rain, so I'll follow the sun"**. Seals and Crofts makes the case that **"Summer breeze makes you feel fine"**. And Martha and the Vandellas sang **"an invitation across the nation, a chance for folks to meet... Summer's here and the time is right for dancing in the street."**

Here, we are featuring the many faces of 237 on the job and ready for some well-deserved "R&R". And, as the lyrics written by rock guitarist Leon Russell and made popular by The Tempos, **"See you in September. See you when the summer's through."** But the song also warns: **"Have a good time but remember. There is danger in the summer moon above. Will I see you in September. Or lose you to a summer love?"** In other words: Recharge. Relax. Reconnect. So, enjoy your summer plans but keep in mind that there are wonderful rewards to maintaining that balance between work and play. See you in September!



Local 237 Member Services

UNION HEADQUARTERS

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

LOCAL 237 DIVISIONS

CITYWIDE, 2nd Fl.
212-924-2000
Donald Arnold, Director

LAW ENFORCEMENT, 2nd Fl.
212-924-2000
Derek Jackson, Director
Kangela Moore, Assistant Director

HOUSING, 2nd Fl.
212-924-2000

Carl Giles, Housing Director

SPECIAL PROJECTS, 2nd Fl.
212-924-2000
Debbie Coleman, Esq., Special Projects Director

LONG ISLAND

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

RETIREE, 6th Fl.
212-807-0555

Provides a variety of pre- and post-retirement services, including pension and health insurance counseling to members. (Pension counseling by appointment, Thursdays only). General retirement counseling and retirement planning series during spring and fall.
Julie Kobi, 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
Susan McQuade, Coordinator

MEMBERS HEALTH, 2nd Fl.
212-924-2000
Susan McQuade, Director
smcquade@local237.org

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.
Diana Nappi, Director
Len Proctor, Deputy Director

SOCIAL SERVICES, 3rd Fl.
646-638-8608

The Local 237 Social Services Department features free social work services that are available to all members. Social workers connect people to much needed assistance and resources. 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 services we can provide.
Karla Steinberg,
Membership Social Worker

LEGAL SERVICES, 4th Fl.
212-924-1220

Lawyers advise and represent members on covered personal legal problems, including domestic relations (family court proceedings, divorce and separation), purchase and sale of a primary residence, wills, adoptions, credit and consumer problems, tenant rights and bankruptcies.
Jennifer Hudson, Esq., Chief Attorney

EXECUTIVE OFFICES, 5th Fl.
212-924-2000

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Vice President

DONALD ARNOLD
Secretary-Treasurer

JEANETTE TAVERAS
Recording Secretary

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 communicating with and supporting elected officials serving our best interests.
Phyllis S. Shafran, Coordinator

GRIEVANCES/DISCIPLINARY PROBLEMS, 2nd 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.
Diana Doss, Esq.,
Grievance Coordinator

CIVIL SERVICE BAR ASSOC.

6th Fl., 212-675-0519
Saul Fishman, President
Lee Gordon, Esq.,
Business Agent
CSBA Welfare Fund
Alicare 866-647-4617

COMMUNICATIONS, 5th Fl.

646-638-8501
Phyllis S. Shafran, Director & Editor Local 237 Newsline and Editor, Retiree News & Views

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

6th Fl., 212-807-0550
Provides a variety of training and educational advancement opportunities for members.
Shanell Grayson, 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

General 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



Message from the President

A Simple Word. A Complex Meaning.

By Gregory Floyd

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

Across our nation, in the Spring and Summer months from Memorial Day to Labor Day, including Flag Day, Juneteenth, Father's Day and Fourth of July, there are countless celebrations where the word "hero" will be applied. That word will be the underlining theme of speeches, TV shows, parades, fireworks, barbecues, marathons and sales throughout America.

We celebrate heroes. It's our custom. Even though today, the actions of some of our historic hero standard-bearers from Christopher Columbus on down are now being reexamined, there are still plenty to go around.

The Webster dictionary defines the word "hero" as "a person who has special achievements, abilities, or personal qualities and is regarded as a role model or ideal." In classic mythology, a hero was someone who is thought to be godlike — a talented warrior—a chieftain with special strength, or an immortal being.

Today, we tend to think of our heroes in a more down-to-earth way—still very noble—but a mortal among us who has done things—big and small—that makes a difference in our lives. Everyday heroes: The Little League coach. The motorist who stopped to help you fix your flat tire. The neighbor who saved a child in a burning building. The person who found and returned your lost dog. Your dad.

Several celebrities weigh-in on what defines a "hero", among them, Whoopie Goldberg, who once asked: "Who amongst us doesn't want to be a hero?" Mariah Carey suggested "If you look inside yourself and you believe, you can be your own hero." While Maya Angelou defined a hero as "any person really intent on making this a better place for all people." Perhaps it was Arthur Ashe who summed it up best. "True heroism is remarkably sober and very undramatic. It is not the urge to surpass all others at whatever cost, but the urge to serve others at whatever cost."

And a hero doesn't need a specific classification or category to qualify. In fact, that could actually limit the accomplishments. Morgan Freeman reminds us that "Martin Luther King Jr., was not a Black hero. He is an American hero."

So, whether it's the countless men and women in the military who bring dignity and valor to the uniform they wear in defense of our freedom, or the School Safety Agents who provided students with free prom gowns, or the NYCHA worker who makes sure that the flowers are in full bloom by the benches where the elderly ladies sit, we take special pride in knowing that many Local 237 members selflessly help others. To them we say, "Thank You".

Among them is the late Tuskegee Airman Dabney Montgomery. Dabney was a NYCHA Housing Assistant for 14 years, who distinguished himself as an exemplary soldier known for his bravery in World War II, yet was denied the right to vote when he got home. Although he was among the security detail for Dr. King on his historic march from Selma to Memphis, it took nearly 60 years after World War II ended for him to be awarded the Congressional Gold Medal. Now, the heels of his shoes from that march are on display in the first-of-its-kind National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C., and a street sign in Harlem bears his name. Wow! How many unions can boast of having a Tuskegee Airman among its members?

Clearly, the word *hero* applies to the highly acclaimed and the virtually unknown. Men and women who rise to the situation but may not get a parade to honor their accomplishments, medals to wear on their chest, trophies for the mantel or news headlines. Just everyday heroes whose reward is knowing that they made a difference. Many are Local 237 members. To all of them we say, "Thank You".



Tuskegee Airman and Local 237 member the late Dabney Montgomery.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

LABOR DAY PARADE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7th

Local 237's Kick off location and time to be announced on local237.org and our social media platforms.



BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS • FREE TEE SHIRTS AND FOOD

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS Above and Beyond

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

South Brooklyn Health Honors Hospital Cops



Hospital Police Officer Stephen Cummings was honored for his heroic actions. *Photo by Dean Moses.*

Hospital police were recently honored inside of NYC Health + Hospitals/South Brooklyn Health, formerly known as Coney Island Hospital, for helping defend staff and patients in life and death situations.

Members of the hospital police on patrol at city-owned and operated medical centers are not equipped with any weapons; they are forced to deal with threats using only their bare hands and their training. Hospital Police often face many risks when on the job.

In one incident, Stephen Cummings, a police officer at the hospital, says he was left in a bloody brawl after a patient assaulted a nurse. "He got very irate, challenged us, and tried to punch us. He punched me in the nose," Cummings said. "Blood was everywhere. I didn't know it was my blood. My coworker said, "somebody's bleeding. It was me!" Cummings and fellow cops were ultimately able to apprehend and subdue the suspect.

Sgt. Pache is a life saver



Two-time UPSD Rescue Medal recipient, **Sergeant Pache** saved a life recently. When a student was choking on a piece of food lodged in his throat, Sgt. Pache's abdominal thrusts helped removed the piece of food which the aided the student's breathing. EMS arrived and confirmed that the young man was in stable condition. It was recommended to his mother that her son seek further medical attention due to elevated blood pressure resulting from the stress caused by the experience.

Karla Steinberg Honored



Karla Steinberg, Local 237 Membership Social Worker, received a Special Recognition Award from Department of Homeless Services for her professional leadership, guidance, support and vision that made a huge difference for their officers over the past year.

Local 237 NEWSLINE

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

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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 ensure that you continue receiving your newspaper.



Congratulations!



Colleagues surprised **Joscelyn Hernandez**, Local 237 Grievance Coordinator, with a surprise baby shower as she waits for the arrival of her expected baby boy.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS Public Housing Division

So many of our members distinguish themselves by their professionalism on the job. Here are some of their pictures and stories.



Cadidra Thomas, Caretaker I, Johnson Houses.



Jaleesa Moye, Business Agent and **Karla Steinburg** (center) stand in solidarity with some of NYCHA Bronx River staff after discussing Social Services.



Newly appointed Assistant Superintendent of Bronx River Houses, **Andres (Andy) Rodriguez** encourages his staff to be knowledgeable about the benefits that Local 237 offers.



(l-r) **Karla Steinburg**, Local 237 Social Worker with **Quantae Carroway**, Bronx River's Shop Steward.



Plaster Supervisors for the Bronx. (l-r) **John Fiorenza**, **Frank Spallino** and **Paul Iveagh**.



(l-r) Pink Houses. **Robert Smith**, Caretaker J with **Ms. Jacqueline Lee**.



Leighton Phillips, Caretaker X is looking forward to summer vacations with family, traveling and enjoying a new season.



(l-r) **Kristopher Alvarado**, SOG St. Mary's Houses with **Ken Roper**, Housing Business Agent and Assistant to the President



Kevin Squires, Caretaker X Vandalia Houses Brooklyn is looking forward to summer vacations, being with family, NYCHA summer hours, and helping to make development grounds look good.



Ken Roper (back row center) and **Martha Bodhnarain, Esq.**, Local 237's Sr. Counsel (right) met with Cleaning and Set-Up employees at Javits Center.



MEMBERS IN THE NEWS Citywide Division

So many of our members distinguish themselves by their professionalism on the job. Here are some of their pictures and stories.

H+H Lincoln Hospital



Lincoln Hospital Housekeeper Supervisors are front line supervisors responsible for maintaining the hospital standards for cleanliness along with support staff. (l-r) **George Wade**, Assistant Director of Citywide; **Francisco Torres**, Supervising Housekeeper; **Martha Casilla**, Senior Housekeeper; **Christopher Maldonado**, Senior Housekeeper; and **Bianca Jones**, Citywide Business Agent.



(l-r) **Bianca Jones**; **Dieunane Deus**, Radiological Technologist, Level 4; **M. Leslie Jean Louis**, Radiological Technologist, Level 2; **George Wade**; and **Rina Biswas**, Radiological Technologist, Level 3.

H+H Seaview Hospital - Hospital Appreciation



(l-r) **Bianca Jones**, **Officer Donna Tannenbaum** and **Officer Binu Joseph**.



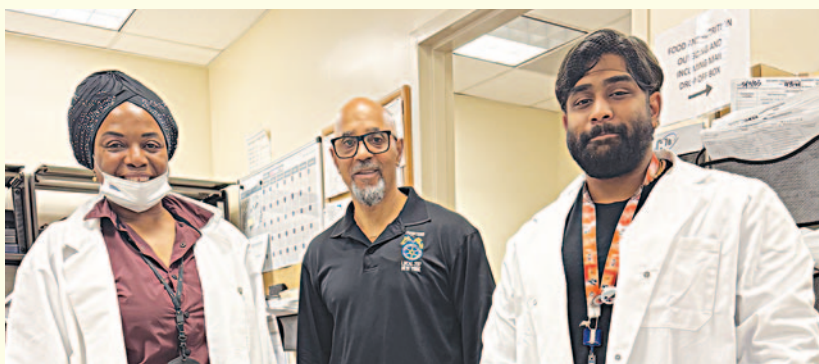
(l-r) **Joshua McLean**, Maintenance Worker; **Bianca Jones** and **Everton Bramble**, Maintenance Worker.



Joseph Conigliaro, Supervising Housekeeper.



Department of Education, Queens District #24 School Food Service Managers with **Bianca Jones** (center).



(l-r) **Sabrina Hylor**; Food Service Supervisor; **George Wade**; and **Joshua Melville**, Food Service Supervisor.



(l-r) **George Wade** with Ultrasound Techs **Vilma Promese** and **Tracy Vincent**.



(l-r) **Xiaofang (Jessica) Gao**, Eco Tech; and **Thomas Sudhin**, Eco Tech.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS Law Enforcement Division

So many of our members distinguish themselves by their professionalism on the job. Here are some of their pictures and stories.



SSA 3 **Mattera**, welcomes **Mayor Adams** as a speaker at a Vietnam Veterans celebration event at Tottenville High School.



Hospital Police Officers Taylor and Sultana Metropolitan Hospital.



Peace Officers at CUNY Law School (l-r) **Specialist Corona** and **CPO Pittman**.



LaGuardia College Campus Peace Officers welcome students, staff, and visitors to the college. (l-r) **Campus Police Officers Hall, Castillo, Estrella** and **Sgt. Miller**.



(l-r) **Derek Jackson**, Director of Law Enforcement; with **Public Safety Officer Daniel Ramos**, Officer Ramos has been an officer for 33 years.



Hospital Police Officers at Harlem Hospital roll call. They are ready to serve to protect staff, visitors, and patients.



Mental Health Awareness Month is coming to an end, but the EAU is available every day of every month. Please feel free to reach out for your coworkers, family or yourself. You can remain anonymous. EAU (646) 610-6730



CUNY/BMCC (l-r) **Derek Jackson**; **CSA Hollis**; **Sgt. Sanderson**; and **Charlie Cotto**, Local 237 Director of Operations, Law Enforcement and Citywide.



Derek Jackson speaks with the new recruits at the CUNY Academy.

Telecommunications Training at Baruch College



Basic Telecommunications Training for Public Safety Officers conducted by Mr. Brian Porter of The Public Safety Group. The following officers attended this training: **Lt. Roseann Pilgrim**, **Cpl. Danielle Brothers**, **Cpl. Patricia Victor**, **Cpo. Wanda Borders**, **Cpo. Jean Jean-Baptiste**, **Cpo. Tia Gardner**, **Csa. Adelaide Tetteh**, **Csa. Michelle Cooke**, **Csa. Frances Willis**, **Csa. Jada Patterson**, **Csa. Luis Sanchez**, **Csa. Javier Nunez** and **Csa. Laura Rodriguez**.



(l-r) **ACS Police Officers: Sgt. Arnaud**, **Officer Molina**, **Sgt. Johnson**, **Officer Billingsley**, **Benson** and **Brown**.



School Safety Instructors at the Police Academy are vital to training the next generation of School Safety Agents. Here are just a few of these phenomenal instructors. (l-r) **SSA III Espejo**, **SSA III Vereen**, **SSA III Winter Ewer** and **SSA III Santiago**.

Added to the Roster of Retirees

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



(l-r) Gregory Floyd, Local 237 President; with Michael De Leo, Supervisor Bricklayer retired with 35 years on the job; and Donald Arnold, Local 237 Executive Board Secretary-Treasurer and the Director of the Citywide Division.



Harlem Hospital celebrated Detective Marty with a "walkout" for his 19 years of service.



(l-r) Kangela Moore, Assistant Director and Business Agent of Law Enforcement with Detective Marty.



Hospital Police Officer Bessie Brewster retired on April 25, 2025.



SSA 3 Shelia Barrow Gonzalez from Bronx East JHS 125 retired after 22 years of service. Pictured with Charlie Cotto, Local 237 Director of Operations, Law Enforcement and Citywide



SSA 3 Robin Morris (center) retired after 25 years of service. Pictured with Charlie Cotto (left) and CO Cindy McNiel (right).

resolution
Your Identity at Risk, Our Solutions at Work™

Voice Call, Email Phishing and SMS Text Fraud Attempts Surging....

We have been seeing a significant increase in calls to us from victims/attempted victims of these types of identity theft and fraud.

So we thought we'd provide some repeated guidance on what to look out for and some DO's and DON'T's

Identity Fraudsters are becoming increasingly sophisticated in their use of the latest technology to try and con us into believing they are a "legitimate" representative of a company.

The quality of the fraudulent emails/texts/and voice calls is such that unless we are very vigilant we can be duped.

Typical ploys include:

- Calling to inform you that your account is overdue and demanding payment
- Advising you that your account has been compromised and asking you to allow PIN Code and Password Resets
- Asking you to confirm suspicious activity on your account and allowing them access to investigate further
- Calling to "confirm" recent purchases on your account
- Text messages from a "friend" emanating from a number you don't recognize
- Informing you that you have been part of a data breach and you need to supply them with personal information to help "protect you"
- Emails that look like they are legitimate (logo, content etc) asking you to "click on a link" to obtain information or a "free gift"
- Calls saying that a purchase was inadvertently charged to your account and they need your information to cancel the transaction.

DO

Verify the number that is calling you is a valid phone number for the company calling. If in the slightest doubt, HANG UP and check. Ask for the name and ID# of the representative.

Change PIN Codes and Passwords regularly and where available enable 2 Factor Authentication (2FA).

Ensure your computer/mobile device software is up to date and has the latest security "patches" installed. Ensure that you have your "spam" and security filters set up correctly.

Ensure you think about what's on your social media profile and who has access to it. Social Media is a treasure trove for scammers.

When in doubt, check phone numbers on official websites and on the back of credit cards etc. Use these and ONLY these to return calls or verify enquiries

Give out ANY personal information unless you are absolutely sure it is necessary and being given to a valid representative. Don't assume that just because the voice "sounds" like a friend or co-worker that it is them, especially if it's an unusual request or conversation.

DON'T

Give out PIN Codes or Passwords or allow them to be changed by a third party. If a caller/texter/emailer asks for this, go to the company website and see if you can do it there or call back the company and ask why it's necessary.

Open emails that look suspicious or click on links from a non verified source. You may be importing malware and data "scraping" software.

Allow people to "follow" or "friend" you unless you know them and you are happy for them to be in your social media circle. Never give out personal information over social media platforms unless to a verified source.

Call back to a number given by a suspicious caller purporting to be from a bank/credit card/government agency. Hang up, and check.

When all is said and done, WE are the first line of our defence against fraud. We need to be vigilant, use common sense and be extremely cautious with our information. When in doubt DON'T

More Information? Call Us... 877 308 9169
www.idresolution.net

New York City Mayor Eric Adams and New York City Department of Veterans' Services (DVS) Commissioner James Hendon today announced that the City of New York will next year host a ticker tape parade celebrating the service of post-9/11 servicemembers and veterans – the first of its kind in a major city in the nation. On **Monday, July 6, 2026**, the City of New York will host "Homecoming of Heroes: A Ticker Tape Parade Honoring Our Post-9/11 Combat Veterans and Their Families," a historic tribute recognizing the extraordinary service, sacrifice, and resilience of a generation that bore the weight of America's longest war.

If you are interested in learning more about our initiatives or connecting to services at DVS, you can visit nyc.gov/vets, email us at connect@veterans.nyc.gov, call us at 212-416-5250, or visit us at 1 Centre St., Suite 2213, New York, NY 10007

NYC
Department of Veterans' Services

"HOMECOMING OF HEROES"

A Ticker Tape Parade honoring our Post-9/11 Veterans, first responders, and their families.

Check the Status of your Social Security Benefits Claim Online

If you applied for Social Security benefits, or have a pending reconsideration or hearing request, you can check the status online using your free personal **my Social Security** account. If you don't have an account, you can create one at www.ssa.gov/myaccount to review the following information about your appeal:

- Date of filing.
- Current claim location.
- Scheduled hearing date and time.
- Incomplete applications.
- Servicing office location.
- Publications of interest, depending on the claim and current step in the process.

If you have questions about retirement, disability, Medicare, or survivor benefits, or about Supplemental Security Income, visit our webpage at www.ssa.gov/benefits. Please share this information with your loved ones. ■

GRADUATIONS



RECOGNITIONS

Congratulations

PROMOTIONS

ACHIEVEMENTS



School Safety



School Safety Promotions: Shekila J. Brinson, Kaisun K. Foster, Emma E. Hendley, Jose A. Centeno, Michelle Gousse, Susan V. Greenidge, Tiffany R. Rembert, Naomi Deolet, Krystal H. Rodriguez, Eric Cosme, Latisha J. Rogers, Brenda L. Curry and Shanise M. Liddell.

4 WTC DHS/HRA/ACS



Charlie Cotto, Local 237 Director of Operations, Law Enforcement and Citywide pictured with 4 WTC DHS/HRA/ACS graduates.

ACS



Derek Jackson, Director of Law Enforcement (left) pictured with ACS graduates and staff.

PLASTERERS



Graduating class of the Plasterer's Academy. (l-r) Dennis Rice; Cal Bruno VP; Geoffrey Psillos; Quinel Murray; Ray Hall; Elvis Almonte; Eduardo Rosa; Norberto Luna, Assistant Director of Housing; Leslie James, Director; and Ignazio Boccadifuoco.

HOSPITAL POLICE WEEK

COLER REHABILITATION AND NURSING CARE CENTER



(l-r) Sgt. Earl Mayers, PO Manny Cuevas, Sgt. Noe Cabrera, Captain Tiffany Carter, PO Rene Nuesi and Chief Vito Aleo.

LINCOLN HOSPITAL



Charlie Cotto (left) Local 237 Director of Operations, Law Enforcement and Citywide; and Derek Jackson, Director of Law Enforcement (right) with Hospital Executives honoring our Hospital Police Officers.



Hospital Police at Harlem Hospital celebrated Police Week and gave out candy souvenirs to attendees.

NORTH CENTRAL HOSPITAL



Charlie Cotto (second from right) with Hospital Executives honoring our Hospital Police Officers.

HENRY J. CARTER HOSPITAL AND COLER HOSPITAL



(Back row, l-r) Chief Alargo from Coler Hospital, PO Bonifacio, PO Desir, Capt. Carter from Coler Hospital, Sgt. Torres, Wp. Clarke, PO George, Sgt. Gilliard, Sgt. Jusino, Chief Alago, Sgt. Fernandez, CEO Floyd Long of Henry J. Carter Hospital. (Front row, l-r) AED Karen Miller; Kangel Moore, Assistant Director and Business Agent of Law Enforcement; Lt. Hicks; and PO Gordon.

JACOBI HOSPITAL



Charlie Cotto (second from left) with Hospital Police Officers.

S. BKLYN. HEALTH, KINGS COUNTY AND WOODHULL



Derek Short, Law Enforcement Business Agent (back row) with Hospital Police Officers and Hospital Executives. (l-r) Retired Lt. Darnell Green, and Derek Short.



(l-r) Charlie Cotto, Officer Mateo Medan (award for best attendance) Juan Checo, HHC Director of Hospital Police Citywide.



Detective Campbell receives Officer of the Year award.

Derek Short, (back row, left) with Hospital Police Officers and Hospital Executives.

DHS POLICE MEDAL DAY 2025

EXCELLENT DUTY

ANDRE, RONALD
ANDUJAR, ALEX
COSAJ, FREIDA
DIAZ, ROBERT
DISALVO, NADIA
ELSERGANY, KARIM F
RISON, TRENICE
GAY, DASHAWN
GUZMAN, NEREYDA
LUGTU, JASON
MILLS, TASHA
RIGG, ALIYAH
SIMMS, JEANNA
SMITH, IYANNA
TOBIAS, JUSTIN
VIOLA, CARLOS
WALKER, KATRICE
WILLIAMS, LAQUAN

Promotions:

DEPUTY INSPECTOR
WILSON, JASON

CAPTAIN
KELLY-ISAAC, AMY
STUKES, KASHENA

LIEUTENANT
DISALVO, NADIA
IRBY, DESHAWN
RODRIGUEZ, FREDDIE
VASQUEZ, JASMINE

SERGEANT

ANDUJAR, ALEX
BAILEY, LEONARD
BARKSDALE, JAMAL
CAMPBELL, JOSHUA
CARAM ES, JASON
CLEMENTE, RAVEN
DAS, MIRIAM
ELSERGANY, KARIM
HARVEY, FREDRICK
JAMES, LATOYA
PINKSTON, EDWARD
REID, ANDRENE
RIVERA, JEANNETTE
KEITT-SPENCER, SELENA
WILLIAMS, CHRISTINE
ZHELEZNYAK, ROSTISLAV

SERGEANT OF THE YEAR
SGT. TASHA

OFFICER OF THE YEAR
DET. EMIR RADONCIC

COMMENDATION
SGT. RAVEN CLEMENTE
PO CHRISTOPHER LAGOS
PO MARIO CADAVID
PO FELIX JAMES

SPECIAL RECOGNITION
KARLA STEINBERG
STEVE MARTIN

DETECTIVE

BARRY, AJAMU
BEATO, JUAN
JENKINS, JAMIE
MANCUSO, PETER
MILLS, TASHA
RIVERA, CARLOS
SIMMONS, TONYA
SOSA, PAUL

UNIT CITATION

JEROME MEN'S SHELTER
Under the Guidance of
Lt. Nadia Disalvo

LETTER OF RECOGNITION
ABEDIN, JOYNUL
PRATT, SHATAVIA
WHITE, JEWELL

25 YEARS
COTTO, WILBUR
EDMONDS, AARON
RODRIGUEZ, RICHARD

20 YEARS
SCOTT, MELSHAWN
WASHINGTON, LAKIMA
WILSON, JASON

10 YEARS

BLACKMAN, ALISA
BRAGGS, JENNIFER
BROWN, DEBORAH
BURGOS, STEVEN
CARDWELL, JAVONNE
CLARKE, JODI-ANN
COOPER, VANESA
COTTON, TYQUITHIA
CROTHERS, CHARIE
DEHOYOS, ROBERTO
FEARON, DAMION
FONVILLE, JASMINE
FRAZIER, DARIN
GLOVER, CHRISTIAN
HARVEY, FREDRICK
HEBBARD, PATRICK
HODGE, ISSAC
JABER, SHARIFF
KNIGHT, SHANELL
LEE, DAVID
LILLY, SHON
MERRIWETHER, SKUYLER
MOORER, LATAISHA
MOSS, CIARA
MURRAY, EBONY
RANDOLPH, TIFFANY
REINA, JAMES
RICHARDSON, JEFFERY
ROBERTS, KELLY
ROBESON, SAMANTHA
RODRIGUEZ, MARIA-THERESA
SAUNDERS, TYRELL



Charlie Cotto (left) Local 237 Director of Operations, Law Enforcement and Citywide; and Martha Bodhnarain, Esq., Local 237's Sr. Counsel (right) with DHS Special Officers.



Charlie Cotto (left) and Martha Bodhnarain, Esq. (right) with DHS Special Officers.



(l-r) Charlie Cotto, Officer Roberto Dehoyos, Officer Christian Glover, Officer Latasha Moorer and Martha Bodhnarain, Esq.



(l-r) Sergeant Jeanette Rivera, Charlie Cotto and Officer Bridget Alexander.



DHS Carlos Rivera and his daughter.

COLER REHABILITATION AND NURSING CARE CENTER



Captain Carter was recently promoted from Lieutenant to Captain.

HARLEM HOSPITAL



Captain Franco was recently promoted from Lieutenant to Captain.

HARLEM HOSPITAL



Sergeant Roman was recently promoted to Sergeant.



LONG ISLAND REPORT



(l-r) **Benny Carenza**, Director of the Long Island Division and Trustee on the Executive Board with **Guy Semi-one**, Head Custodian who retired from Harbor Fields School District.



(l-r) **Benny Carenza** with **Sean O'Brien**, General President of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.



Great Teamster Day marching in the 57th Annual Brentwood St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Oceanside High School Vocational Fair

Oceanside High School held a Vocational Fair that was attended by hundreds of students from the High School. **John Gallagher**, Long Island Business Agent, was in attendance for the Teamster Local 237 Long Island Division. He participated in dialogue with students on how to join a union and discussed employment opportunities with school districts and municipal governments.

So many High School students are involved in seeking vocational schools, union trade schools and other opportunities.

There were several others representing employers such as the Nassau County Police Department, the FBI and Long Island BOCES.

It was a great opportunity to meet young people and discuss options other than college. Statistics show as much as 2/3 of millennials age 18-24 in 2022 were not enrolled in college. ■



(l-r) BA **John Gallagher** and **John LaCascia**.



New York State Retirement Seminar



Directors from the Retirement System talked about Tiers 2,3,4,5 and 6 pension entitlements. Over 100 members in attendance and all were very happy learning about their future guaranteed pensions.



ANNUAL LONG ISLAND EVENT *Everyday Heroes 2025*

*Honoring great members at our Annual Everyday Hero's Event.
Here are a few pictures and memories. Congratulations to all!*



(l-r) Benny Carenza with Gregory Floyd, Local 237 President.



(l-r) Steve Zwerin, North Babylon School District Bus Driver with Benny Carenza.



(l-r) Annie Key, North Babylon School District Custodian with Benny Carenza.



(l-r) Rich Quedens, Auto Mechanic IV with Benny Carenza.



(l-r) Christopher Conza, West Islip Schools Maintenance Mechanic with Benny Carenza.



(l-r) Ed Cervo, Plainview Old Bethpage School District Assistant Head Custodian with Benny Carenza.



(l-r) Tony Martinez, Deputy Town Supervisor; Kevin McCaffrey, Suffolk County Legislator and Teamsters Local 707 President; Benny Carenza; Gregory Floyd; Kwani O'Pharrow, NYS Assembly Member; and Rich Shaffer, Town of Babylon Supervisor.



POLITICAL AND LABOR NEWS

New Contract Approved by wide margin for Elevator Mechanics

Local 237 Elevator Mechanics, Supervisors and Helpers have overwhelmingly ratified a new contract that provides annual raises, retro-pay and a signing bonus, as well as the protection of healthcare and supplemental union benefits.

The Committee opted for the Citywide pattern, which provided a richer contract than the outside rate. ■



The Local 237 Elevator Mechanic Negotiation Committee tallied ratification ballots on April 24. (l-r) Members Vincent Carreca and Ronald Hall; Martha Bodhnarain, Esq., Local 237's Sr. Counsel; Norberto Luna, Assistant Director of Housing; and Donald Arnold, Local 237 Executive Board Secretary-Treasurer and the Director of the Citywide Division.

Fighting "HCRA" – Local 237 Joins Coalition to Repeal and Replace "Stealthcare" Taxes



William Nagel, Esq. Political Director, Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers Local Union No. 1, NY and BAC Local Union No. 7 (Tile, Marble & Terrazzo), Matthew D. Loeb, International President, International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (I.A.T.S.E.), John O'Malley, Legislative Coordinator, Local 1180 Communications Workers of America (CWA), Dr. James Parrott, Senior Advisor and Senior Fellow, Center for New York City Affairs at The New School.



Richard Winsten, Esq., lobbyist with the firm State & Broadway, which helped organize the HCRA Coalition.

Teamsters Local 237 is part of a new coalition aimed at reforming the funding for New York's Health Care Reform Act ("HCRA"). This coalition of unions and other stakeholders is united in a fight for a fairer, more equitable healthcare funding system in New York State. On April 23, Local 237 joined with other unions for the official unveiling of the coalition's "HCRA" Revenue Reform proposal. The Coalition's proposal entails the repeal and replacement of the HCRA revenue system, which is currently scheduled to sunset in April, 2026—and thus requires reauthorization to continue as is. The coalition's strategy is to use this opportunity to adopt proposed legislation repealing the existing stealth taxes and replacing them with broad-based revenues.

HCRA, first implemented in 1997, provides for many important public goods such as Indigent Care. However, these broad-based public goods are funded through hidden, targeted taxes imposed on our health benefits. A system of surcharges and regional covered lives assessments apply to most hospital, diagnostic treatment center, and ambulatory surgical center claims incurred in New York, regardless of patient residency.

The HCRA revenue system punishes union benefit funds and other providers of health benefits while rewarding employers who provide no health benefits – they pay nothing at all! These taxes are obscure, which has allowed the legislature to raise them 14 times. HCRA taxes are now the fourth-largest source of revenue to the state behind the income tax, sales tax, and corporate franchise tax, accounting for over \$7 billion in state revenue last year.

At the event, in which Matthew D. Loeb, International President of the I.A.T.S.E., served as Master of Ceremonies, panelists from multiple sectors and industries discussed the strain that HCRA taxes place on our health benefit funds and on collective bargaining agreements. HCRA insurance assessments and surcharges add approximately \$440 per person to the cost of private health coverage, or \$1,760 for a family of four. These taxes amount to about 4.3% of an employer's total health benefit cost per year, while employers who provide no health benefits pay nothing! Even benefits government provides to public workers are taxed! NYC alone is taxed approximately \$400 million annually by the State for its over one million public employees and their families. Every other municipality, public authority, and layer of local government is impacted.

As a matter of principle, NYS corporate franchise taxes (which have been significantly reduced over the past several years) and other broad-based taxes are the proper vehicles to shoulder the costs of HCRA's broad-based public goods. As a result, private employers who do the right thing by their workers will see a reduction in their tax burden, and public sector employers would see their HCRA tax burden eliminated entirely.

The Coalition for HCRA Revenue Reform is taking its first public steps to advocate for the elimination of hidden HCRA taxes, reducing the burden on responsible employers, and ensuring quality care for working families. Teamsters Local 237 President Gregory Floyd said: "I welcome the opportunity to participate in a coalition dedicated to taking early and decisive action to address the unequal and escalating costs of healthcare. Our members shouldn't be saddled with hidden costs and those gaming the system. Nobody likes a freeloader." ■

Contract reached for Javits Center Full-Time and Part-Time Cleaners and Set-Up Employees. Ratification Expected June 11.



(l-r) Elizabeth Valentin, Part-Time Cleaning and Set-Up Employee; Julius Cintron, Full-Time Cleaning and Set-Up Employee; Martha Bodhnarain, Esq., Local 237's Sr. Counsel; Donald Arnold, Local 237 Executive Board Secretary-Treasurer and the Director of the Citywide Division; Christine McMahon, SVP of Labor Relations and Show Operations, Javits Center; Ken Roper, Housing Business Agent and Assistant to the President; and Georgie Du Pont, Associate General Counsel, Javits Center.

Teamsters Hispanic Caucus NJ Gala



(l-r) Ruben Torres, Local 237's Executive Board Vice President; and Jeanette Taveras, Local 237's Executive Board Recording Secretary and Law Enforcement Business Agent; were honored at the Teamsters Hispanic Caucus NJ Gala. Maria Perez, President of the NJ Caucus (at podium) and Dana M Butley, Assembly Clerk, of the General Assembly (right).

Teamsters Support Teamsters

Teamsters Local 237 supports striking New Jersey Transit Locomotive Engineers

Members of Teamsters Local 237 joined Locomotive Engineers of NJ Transit — who had not received a pay increase in five years — in picket lines at their headquarters. Upon intense negotiations, and with the support of their union brothers and sisters, the strike was ended and ridership returned after several days of the strike. ■



(l-r) George Wade, Assistant Director of Citywide; Kangel Moore, Assistant Director and Business Agent of Law Enforcement; Curtis Scott, Citywide Business Agent and Local 237 Executive Board Trustee; Ken Roper, Housing Business Agent and Assistant to the President; and Derek Jackson, Director of Law Enforcement.



Jeanette Taveras; Local 237 Executive Board Recording Secretary and Law Enforcement Business Agent (2nd from left); and Kangel Moore (right); with Teamsters Striking Locomotive Engineers from New Jersey Transit.



(l-r) Kangel Moore; Derek Short, Law Enforcement Business Agent; Frank Rella, Law Enforcement Business Agent; Jeanette Taveras; and Derek Jackson.



(l-r) Donald Arnold, Local 237 Executive Board Secretary-Treasurer and the Director of the Citywide Division; Jeanette Taveras; Gabriel Paul; Curtis Scott; and Derek Jackson.

POLITICAL AND LABOR NEWS

Local 237 Hosts IBT's Public Service Conference



Gregory Floyd, Local 237's President, Vice President at-Large on the General Executive Board, and the Assistant Director of the Public Services and Health Care Division, addresses the conference members.

Local 237 was the site of the IBT's two-day conference dedicated to sharing techniques, resources and processes to retain and grow membership in public sectors Locals. Union officers, Business Agents and staff of IBT unions throughout the Eastern Region were in attendance. The conference featured many presentations and discussions including methods of outreach, Shop Steward training and best practices of organizing. **Ken Roper**, Housing Business Agent and Assistant to the President; and **Charlie Cotto**, Local 237 Director of Operations, Law Enforcement and Citywide; served as panelists. **Gregory Floyd**, who is not only Local 237's President and Vice President at-Large on the General Executive Board, as well as the Assistant Director of the Public Services and Health Care Division, welcomed conference participants by saying: *"Belonging to a union means you never stand alone. When you work in the public sector, union membership is especially important. It provides safeguards against those who disparage our worth and instead, shines a light on the value of our work."* ■



Conference attendees.

City and State Bestows Lifetime and Legacies Awards

Ten years ago, City and State — New York City's leading media outlet for political and government news — published its inaugural 50 Over 50. That edition featured its first list of people over the age of 50 to recognize "the record of achievements of these outstanding figures, who have distinguished themselves in academia, advocacy, business, government, organized labor..." Over the years, the celebratory event that followed each edition, saluted 50 "the age disrupters" such as Manhattan DA Robert Morgenthau, former Police Commissioner Ray Kelly and Meryl Tisch, the former Chancellor of New York State Board of Regents.

To mark the 10-year milestone, City and State selected 50 individuals to honor with "Lifetime and Legacies Awards" from previous recognition lists. Among the honorees was Phyllis Shafran, Teamsters Local 237's Director of Communications and Political Coordinator. New York State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli, WNYC radio host Brian Lehrer and New York City Planning Chair Marisa Lago were the keynote speakers at the award ceremony.

Comptroller DiNapoli told the audience: "We are in a very, very challenging time at this moment....For those of us who are over 50, we reflect on where we're at. Sometimes from a



City & State's 2025 50 Over 50 alumni at Circo in Times Square. (Photo Rita Thompson)

political perspective, I sometimes say, how the hell did we get to this point? Remember what the slogan was back then? Don't trust anybody over 30." DiNapoli went on to say that now, armed with experience, there's the wisdom one gains from weathering previous administrations fraught with polarization. "We need the wisdom of folks like us who've been around for a bit. We've seen versions of this picture before," he said. "I just remember saying, this country is just totally off the rails. We'll never get it back together. We'll never be united as a nation ever again. And I reflect back on that experience, of what we went through in the late 60s, early 70s - and then the country did, in fact, heal itself." ■



Phyllis Shafran, Director of Communications and Political Liaison for Local 237 accepts the award with her grandsons, Mason age 9 and Teddy age 4.

38 Days Late, but Major Wins for Working Families in State Budget

By Vito R. Pitta, Esq.

The battle between Governor Hochul and the New York Legislature carried the approval of the state budget well past the April 1st deadline. The latest budget in 15 years was held up by the Governor's insistence that her proposed policies be enacted as part of any budget deal.

However, despite the delay and the fact that the budget impasse will lead to much less time to pass legislation - the 2025 session ends on June 12th - there is much for Local 237 members and working families to be happy about.

The state of New York is making history by becoming the largest state in the nation to enact a comprehensive, statewide, bell-to-bell restriction on smartphones in K-12 schools. President Gregory Floyd worked closely with the Governor to help make this landmark policy a reality in the FY 2026 State Budget.

Local 237's school safety agents have seen firsthand the detrimental impact that cellphones have had on our young people, including cyber-bullying and fighting.

The bell-to-bell cellphone ban in schools includes:

- A statewide standard for distraction-free schools — banning unsanctioned smartphone use on school grounds throughout the entire school day
- \$13.5 million in funding for schools to purchase smartphone storage solutions
- Local flexibility for school leaders to determine the best plan for storing devices
- Provisions ensuring parents can contact their children when necessary
- Protections against inequitable discipline
- Exemptions for students with medical, educational, or emergency needs

President Floyd's work with the Governor has ensured a balanced, smart solution for an issue that has long disrupted the classroom and commanded public attention.

But this victory is just one part of a broader set of historic wins for working families included in the FY 2026 Budget — many of which were top priorities for Local 237. We fought for — and won — a major expansion of the Child Tax Credit, now providing up to \$1,000 per child for families with children under four, and \$500 per child for those ages 4 to 16. These are the highest levels in state history.

Local 237's support also led to the preservation of \$400 million for childcare subsidies statewide, including \$350 million targeted for families in New York City. More support for childcare means more parents can work, knowing their children are cared for and safe.

We also supported and saw a powerful package of tax relief measures passed, which will lead to a cut in taxes for over 75 percent of New York State filers. Nearly 8.3 million residents will see close to \$1 billion in annual savings — a direct response to the pressures of inflation and rising living costs.

Additionally, inflation refund checks are on the way for middle- and working-class families — up to \$400 for joint filers if their income is \$150,000 or less, and \$300 if it is between \$150,001 and \$300,000. Single filers earning up to \$75,000 will get \$200 and \$150 for those earning between \$75,001 and \$150,000. Payments are expected to start the week of May 20, 2025 and continue through June.

Amid these difficult and uncertain economic times, with astronomical prices for daily essentials such as food and transportation costs, that extra cushion can make a big difference.

Local 237 also championed new consumer protections, and the budget includes guardrails on artificial intelligence, stronger return and refund policies for online shopping, a "click to cancel" mandate for unwanted subscription services, and \$2.5 million to support low-income residents in utility disputes through the Public Utility Law Project.

MORE WINS IN THE CITY BUDGET

The month of May began with the Mayor Adams' introduction of the "Best Budget Ever." This included the launch of a pilot program, in partnership with Summer, a student loan repayment company, to help eliminate \$360 million in student loan debt for 100,000 public servants.

The City will help employees enroll in the federal government's Public Service Loan Forgiveness program (PSLF) and Income Driven Repayment (IDR) plans, and working with Summer, the City will provide public servants and family members with free access to student loan experts, and tools for debt assistance and enrollment in affordable payment programs.

City employees of the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) are eligible as part of this new program, which launched on May 5th (Summer -- app.meetsummer.org/create-account/nyc). All NYC government employees will be eligible for the program beginning in September.

Also, on the City level we saw passage of Int. No. 671-A. The local law, which is effective July 1, 2026, eliminates civil service exam fees for high school students and first-time applicants. The law is meant to address recruitment and retention challenges at citywide agencies. Though it is unclear if waiving the fee aids in recruitment, it is a welcome development for working families.

Government works best when it works for the people — especially the hardworking men and women who keep our city running. This year's state budget and initiatives passed by the City, proves that when labor, elected officials, and communities come together, we can build a safer, smarter, and more affordable New York. ■

Vito R. Pitta is a partner at Pitta LLP, a firm whose practice consists primarily of traditional union-side labor law, employment law, employee benefits law, and campaign finance compliance law. The firm counts more than forty local and international labor unions as its clients. Mr. Pitta's practice consists of counseling the firm's clients on traditional labor and employment matters, as well as advising the firm's political campaign and political action committee clients with respect to federal, state, and local campaign finance laws. Mr. Pitta is also a Partner in Pitta LLP's affiliated personal injury firm, Pitta & Baione LLP, which represents victims of the September 11th terrorist attacks; and a member of Pitta LLP's affiliated lobbying firm, Pitta Bishop & Del Giomo LLC.



POLITICAL AND LABOR NEWS



Air Conditioning and Vacation Top CSBA Members' Summer Wish List

By Saul Fishman

President, Civil Service Bar Association (CSBA)

New York City and surrounding suburbs can be either very pleasant or quite brutal depending on the day, the hour, where you are and how you're dressed. Many of these things are largely out of our control when we are in the office. So it is essential that our employer provide us with an environment which is adequate and safe, which during the summer includes air conditioning.

Important: When the air conditioning goes out or is at either ridiculous extreme, please contact us immediately at csbainfo@local237.org. Kindly let us know who has been contacted, when and by whom, and provide us with whatever details you have (i.e.: agency, address, floor(s), units and room numbers affected, when the condition started, and a suggestion (with contact information when possible) of whom we should reach out to. We can keep your identity confidential if you wish, but please provide us with your cell phone number and/or personal email address should we need further information or updates. If the indoor temperature is unbearable, we will push to allow you to work remotely until the situation has been remedied!

With all the stress most of us experience, from our jobs as underpaid (despite the recent salary and RIP raises) and overworked NYC Agency Attorneys, to living in a divided country with leadership bordering on the insane, it's crucial that we take steps to care for ourselves.

Summer is nature's reminder to take a vacation and/or to slow the pace down when possible. Here are a few suggestions; hopefully you can utilize at least a couple of them or alternatively find your own methods to safely enjoy yourself during the hot weather:

- Spend some time outdoors, preferably either before or after the heat of the day. Nothing beats a relaxing stroll in your happy place!
- Stay well-hydrated and protect your skin from the sun.
- Exercise with the activities of your choice (tennis, pickleball or softball, anyone?) but be mindful of the weather and your limits. Take rest and hydration breaks in the shade.
- Make your own summer music playlist.
- Reconnect with a friend.
- Did I mention take a vacation? Even a long weekend is better than no vacation, and can help us recharge, reenergize and de-stress. Alternatively, if you cannot leave town, even a stay-cation in the world's greatest city, with Broadway shows, great museums, restaurants, shopping, beaches and more, can probably de-stress you for less.

Here's to a fun and relaxing Summer of 2025, either here in the Baked Apple or in the place(s) of your choice! ■

Keeping you in the know



So, You Want a Divorce...

By Jennifer Hudson, Esq.

Director of Local 237 Legal Services Plan

If you receive a Divorce Summons call your Local 237 Legal Services at 212-924-1220 right away and let them know:

- 1) You received divorce papers.
- 2) How you received them.
- 3) When you received them.

Getting married in the state of New York (and a state of love) can be quick, easy, and fun! Getting divorced in the state of New York is slow, challenging, and aggravating. Did you know that you can get married in New York in less than 48 hours and for less than \$75? A divorce in New York generally takes a minimum of one year, and costs a minimum of \$150 with our office, and that is only if you and your spouse completely agree on everything (but if you and your spouse completely agreed on everything, you might not be getting a divorce)!

Common things that can make divorce complicated: not knowing where your spouse lives; minor children of the marriage; a long-term marriage; disparity in income between the spouses; property ownership.

Common things that can make divorce expensive: not knowing where your spouse lives; not providing your attorney with documents timely; your house and pension might need to be appraised; the court might order attorneys to represent your children and you might have to pay those attorney fees; you might need to pay for your spouse's attorney fees.

Divorce attorney fees in New York City are, on average, about \$350/hour. However, as an eligible Local 237 member living in one of the 11 covered counties and not married to another Local 237 member, you will not have to pay for your own Local 237 Legal Services Plan attorney fees.

A member facing divorce will work closely in partnership with their attorney to get the best possible outcome in the dissolution of their marriage. The member's divorce outcome will depend on the law, statutory calculations, and the relevant facts of their situation. The member will need to provide their attorney with numerous documents and keep their attorney informed of any changes throughout the process.

What is the most common thing that people think should matter in a divorce, but does not matter at all? Who cheated on whom.

What is Marital Property?

Anything earned or acquired during the marriage, such as pension and real estate (even if only one person's name is on the deed).

What is Spousal Maintenance?

The amount of money that a spouse earning more money has to pay to a spouse earning less money.

What are "Automatic Stays"?

Once a divorce has started, whether by you or your spouse, you are prohibited from doing certain things, such as transferring your property.

Please call 212-924-1220 to get screened for a divorce appointment, or, if you have any questions about divorce. ■



Pack Light for Vacation!

By David Bonington, CFP®

Financial Planner,
Stacey Braun Associates, Inc.

Wow, what's not to like about the Editor's theme for this issue? Vacation, downtime, and Summer Fun just ahead, with plenty of rest, relaxation, reconnection, and enjoyment – and maybe an extra hot dog or an ice cream sundae slipped in there once or twice. I can't wait!

But I better get to my topic before I spend 500 words talking about sun, sand, surf, picnics, cookouts, and "secret ingredient" BBQ sauce.

Over many years (okay, decades) of work, the days leading up to a vacation always seemed to be some of the most hectic of the year. They still seem that way – and I know colleagues and family members who agree. I did some informal investigating about why, and a pattern emerged: just before vacations, some individuals have work habits and practices geared to putting in extra time and effort to address a large number of matters – all kinds of chores, tasks, and to-dos they don't want to have to "pack" with their vacation luggage. They don't want to even think about these things on vacation, and they don't have to because before they leave the tasks are – a great four-letter word here - DONE. The goal of this intense activity is to head off on vacation leaving behind an empty Inbox and a To Do List with all major items checked off or crossed out.

If you like the sound of this result – and who wouldn't? – before Summer arrives why not get a head start on pre-vacation preparation now? Attend to things like that dental appointment, that insurance company call, and any other things to do likely to become vacation dead weight in your mental suitcase – especially any financial matters!

If something causing stress or anxiety is that budget you keep wanting to make, that debt you want to bring under control, headlines around recent swings in financial markets – or even a difficult financial "knot" you are trying to untie – a Stacey Braun counselor should be able to help. Other topics (such as insurance, saving for college, investing, or estate planning) can be discussed as well, often in the same session. A planner's information, suggestions, and ideas – which BTW are never accompanied by any pressure to buy anything – can set the stage for a more relaxing vacation.

Why not make an appointment today? Odds are good that a session will help you "pack light" when it comes to getting ready, because any "heavy" financial questions will have been raised, discussed, and possibly resolved. See if Stacey Braun can "add lightness" to what you bring with you on this year's vacation. The only thing we will insist you bring is sunscreen! ■

Free, confidential telephone or Zoom sessions with a Stacey Braun planner can be arranged by calling 1-888-949-1925. No financial products are sold and there is no sales pressure.



Local 237 Welfare Fund How Can We Help You?

By Diana Nappi

Director of the Welfare Fund

Welcome to the Teamsters Local 237 Welfare Fund.

Have you contacted us lately? The Welfare Fund is located at 216 W 14th Street, and we offer an array of services for both Active and Retired Members. Our philosophy is "You may retire from work, but you never retire from the union". We encourage Members to reach out to us at 212-924-7220 or come visit us on the 3rd Floor.

Our dedicated Member Services Team are ready to assist you with questions or issues regarding your many benefits, such as:

- Dental
- Prescriptions
- Life Insurance Benefit
- Optical
- Disability
- Drug Reimbursement

Are you a new Retiree and unsure how to navigate your Retiree Benefits?

Give us a call and speak with one of our specialized Member Service Representatives. There are some differences in benefits so please don't hesitate to call Local 237 Welfare Fund so we can inform you.

Have you recently had a qualifying event?

Our Enrollment Team is ready to assist you with enrolling a new child or spouse. We can also assist in updating your beneficiary information.

Recently moved?

Send us an email at WelfareFund@local237.org with your new address. We can update our records with this important information, so you don't miss any vital mailings.

We look forward to speaking with you!

WHAT'S NEW?

Recently the Fund had to make the hard choice to make some necessary changes to the prescription plan so that we can continue to offer these great benefits for generations to come.

You should have received communications from Local 237 Welfare Fund by now regarding these changes.

Co-Pay Changes for Active Members will now be \$10 for Generic and \$50 for Brand at Retail. The same copays apply for a 90-Day Supply (through CVS Caremark Retail/Mail Order)

Advanced Control Choice Plan – The formulary strategy balances clinical appropriateness, member experience and economics.

What does this mean to you?

- Some drug categories will differ between our current T237 formulary and the Advance Control Choice formulary, however many drug categories will remain the same.
- Ask your doctor to consider prescribing drugs that are on the Pharmacy Drug Guide (formulary) **You can visit the Member Portal at Aetna.com or contact Aetna directly at 855-352-1599.**

Prior Authorization Requirements

Pre-certification means that you or your doctor will need to obtain approval from the plan before certain drugs will be covered. Generally, prior authorizations are required by insurance companies for some medications that may have less expensive alternatives.

If you are directly affected by the formulary change, Aetna has mailed separate letters advising what you need to do. ■

Recargar, Relajarse, Reconectarse

Por Gregory Floyd

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

"Summertime and the Livin' is Easy" (El verano y la vida es fácil), las famosas palabras iniciales de la ópera clásica de George Gershwin, Porgy and Bess, con letra de DuBose Heyward e Ira Gershwin, retratan musicalmente el verano como una época para deshacernos de la melancolía invernal. Es cuando aligeramos nuestra vestimenta y, con suerte, también nuestro ánimo. El verano es un tiempo para renovar energías, recargar pilas, relajarnos y reconectar con la familia y los amigos. Es cuando muchos de nosotros tomamos ese merecido "descanso y relajación". Es cuando los días son más largos... y cambiamos el termostato de "calefacción" a "aire acondicionado". Simplemente parece que hay más tiempo para hacer lo que nos gusta, sin la preocupación de que una tormenta de nieve lo arruine todo. Para muchos, el sol del verano trae optimismo y calma, reemplazando así el pesimismo y la tristeza que algunos experimentan durante las largas y frías noches de invierno.

También existe abundante evidencia científica que respalda los beneficios físicos y mentales del verano y de ese "descanso" autoimpuesto que inspira a tantas personas a tomarse un tiempo. Los científicos han observado desde hace tiempo que la vitamina D que proporciona el clima soleado es esencial para la regulación de la absorción de calcio y fósforo, el mantenimiento de huesos y dientes sanos, y también tiene un efecto positivo en la lucha contra muchas enfermedades, como el cáncer, la diabetes y la esclerosis múltiple. Además, las investigaciones demuestran que el verano puede ayudar a revertir el estado de ánimo negativo y la depresión que a menudo son causados por el aislamiento social, el clima severo y las pocas horas de luz diurna durante los meses de invierno.

Así que, tomemos inspiración de las palabras de Bob Marley cuando cantó: **"Sun is shining. Weather is sweet. Make you wanna move your dancing feet" (El sol brilla. El clima es dulce. Te dan ganas de mover los pies al bailar)**. O sigamos el consejo de los Beatles, quienes advirtieron: **"But tomorrow may rain, so I'll follow the sun" (Pero mañana puede llover, así que seguiré al sol)**. Seals and Crofts afirman que **"Summer breeze makes you feel fine" (La brisa de verano te hace sentir bien)**. Y Martha and the Vandellas cantaron **"an invitation across the nation, a chance for folks to meet... Summer's here and the time is right for dancing in the street" (una invitación en todo el país, una oportunidad para que la gente se reúna... El verano está aquí y es el momento perfecto para bailar en la calle)**.

Aquí presentamos los muchos rostros del Local 237 en el trabajo y listos para un merecido "descanso y relajación". Y, como dice la letra escrita por el guitarrista de rock Leon Russell y popularizada por The Tempos: **"See you in September. See you when the summer's through" (Nos vemos cuando termine el verano)**. Pero la canción también advierte: **"Have a good time but remember. There is danger in the summer moon above. Will I see you in September. Or lose you to a summer love?" (Diviértete, pero recuerda. Hay peligro bajo la luna de verano. ¿Te veré en septiembre o te perderé por un amor de verano?)**. En otras palabras: Recarga. Relájate. Reconéctate. Así que disfruta de tus planes de verano, pero ten en cuenta que existen grandes recompensas en mantener ese equilibrio entre el trabajo y la diversión. ¡Nos vemos en septiembre! ■



Keeping you in the know



Sustainability of Self

By Karla Steinberg, LMSW

Membership Social Worker

There's been a lot of talk about energy and sustainability in recent years. From composting and electric cars to solar panels powering homes and businesses, we have become more aware and hopefully, more proactive in our consumption and waste practices. As a social worker, I often ask my clients, "What are you doing to sustain your own peace and energy?" A lot of the responses are blank or inquisitive faces.

We walk through the world sharing the human experience; no one comes out unscathed. We all experience disappointment, joy, pain, grief, loss, happiness, excitement and more. We will experience stress, this is part of being alive. How much, and how well we withstand this distress, is called "frustration tolerance."

Have you ever had a day where everything appears to be going wrong? Alarm didn't go off, train delays, you forgot your umbrella and the sky cracks thunder out of nowhere? How well you are able to roll with life's punches will have an impact on your mood, your cortisol (stress hormone) levels, and even your ability to recover from those curveballs. Your frustration tolerance at the end of an awful day is likely to be less than at the beginning of the day. Or, on a day where everything seems to be going your way.

How can we help manage it? First, know what your stressors are. People often struggle with accepting the things we cannot control. I didn't say "liking," I said "accepting." The more time we spend in anger/frustration, even sadness, the more we're releasing cortisol and adrenaline (the stress/fight or flight hormones) into our systems. These are released to prepare us for a "life or death" situations, like fighting a bear. We can only spend so much time in a state of intense emotional distress, before we come down from it. The downside is it can really take it out of you.

Since energy is finite, it serves you to reclaim yours, and your peace as well. Here are some tips on how to "reset."

1. Splash some cold water on your neck (armpits, back of the knees, face works too).
2. Deep breaths. In through your nose, out through your mouth (ooooohs). Drag out your exhale for as long as possible.
3. Refocus using your 5 senses. What can you smell, see, taste, feel, hear in this moment? I find it helpful to find things to count. Street signs or backpacks. People wearing sneakers, a certain color. Maybe pop in some mint gum; people find mint refreshing. Tap your fingers at the same time, maybe to the rhythm of the music you're listening to.
4. Allow yourself to have the feeling/thought, without judging yourself for it. "This is frustrating, so I feel (name the feeling)." It's ok. It will pass. I have been through worse; I can manage this."
5. Treat yourself. What can you do for yourself later to soothe and recharge? Hot shower or bath, maybe a walk in a nice neighborhood or park, catch up with a friend.
6. What do you need? Is it five minutes? Is it a good cry? Rom-com? Getting in touch with how to meet your own needs is a great way to know what works and what doesn't. Take some time to check in with yourself.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about how to create a more emotionally sustainable life, I am available. You can call or email me. I look forward to hearing from you. ■



To the families of Local 237 members who are no longer with us, and to our members who have suffered a loss, please know that we share your sorrow and hope that fond memories will offer you peace and comfort. – President Gregory Floyd, the Executive Board and Staff

50 Years of Service

Congratulations to Council for Unity which celebrated 50 years of service working with the youth. Teamsters Local 237 Supported Council for Unity 50th Annual Induction Ceremony and Celebration. ■



(l-r) Robert F. DeSena, Council for Unity President and Founder; Kangel Moore, Assistant Director and Business Agent of Law Enforcement; and Jeanette Taveras, Local 237 Executive Board Recording Secretary and Law Enforcement Business Agent.



The Education and Training Department wishes you a relaxing Summer Break!

By Shanell Grayson

Director of Training and Education

You've worked hard! Now it's time to have some fun. To the thousands of students who participated in our Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 classes, we are proud of all you've accomplished. Now that summer is here, it's so important to regroup, recharge, and relax. You've earned it!

Summer break is a necessary part of the Education Department's operations. It is our dedicated time to brainstorm, create, and revise our courses so that they continue to be impactful and relevant. Also, July is when the Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) uploads its yearly exam calendar. We use this calendar to design study classes and keep our members abreast of exams they may be required to pass. I encourage all provisional civil service employees to visit the DCAS website at that time. I've included the link below.

We appreciate every student who has participated in our classes, and we hope to see some new and familiar faces in the fall.

As always, **we look forward to serving you!** ■

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH... IN THEIR OWN WORDS



Keith Evans - Caretaker J

I am currently attending the "Soft Skills" portion of the HPT Certificate Program that the Education Department is offering. This is a program that teaches the basics of becoming a heating plant technician. I am also looking forward to taking the study class to help me prepare for the Maintenance Civil Service Exam in the Fall. It's a wonderful thing that the Union offers these classes to their members for free!



Cadidra Thomas - Storeroom Keeper

We would like to congratulate member Cadidra Thomas' wonderful daughter, Breanna, on winning the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Scholarship in the amount of \$2,000. Breanna is a first-year premed student at the University of Massachusetts.

Education Department's FREE Courses

CIVIL SERVICE EXAM PREP CLASSES

- CUNY Campus Peace Officer (June)
- Housing Assistant (June)
- Maintenance Worker/Bridge Exam (June)
- School Food Service Manager (June)
- Special Officer (June)

Upcoming civil service exams to be posted in July on the DCAS website. Visit nyc.gov/examsforjobs for details.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSES

- Defensive Driving NY (September)
 - > 10% off insurance
 - > 4 points off license

SCHOLARSHIPS

- Teamsters International Scholarship
 - > High School Seniors
 - > JRHMSF.org
- Union Plus Scholarship
 - > Members and their families
 - > Unionplus.org

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSES

- Beginning Computer Skills (May)
- Shop Steward Training #2 (August) (For Current Shop Stewards ONLY)
- Shop Steward Training #3 (November) (For Current Shop Stewards ONLY)

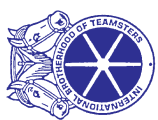
Scan the QR Code to register now.



Email: training@local237.org

COURSES AT PARTICIPATING UNIONS

- GED Prep
 - > 1199: (212) 894-4362
 - > UAW: (212) 228-0041
- English and Spanish Courses
 - > 1199: (212) 494-0525



NEWSLINE
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SUMMER 2025

DATED MATERIAL

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