



## 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, Thurs-  
days only). General retirement  
counseling and retirement plan-  
ning 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 Depart-  
ment 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 per-  
sonal challenges, learning about pos-  
sible solutions to those challenges  
would make things that much easier.  
Contact us to learn about the many  
services we can provide.  
Karla Steinberg, MSW  
Membership Social Worker

**LEGAL SERVICES**, 4th Fl.  
212-924-1220  
Lawyers advise and represent mem-  
bers on covered personal legal prob-  
lems, 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

**GREGORY FLOYD**  
President

**RUBEN TORRES**  
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 communicat-  
ing 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-RETIREEES

**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

# “Are We There Yet?”

By Gregory Floyd

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

**D**id you ever take a long car ride with kids? Despite their iPads, cell phones and countless bags of gummy bears, eventually you'll be asked: "Are we there yet?" Your answer: "Soon," will only last a few minutes before the question is asked again... and again, and again.

"Are We There Yet?" is not a question only impatient little kids ask; we grown-ups ask it too. In so many instances, as we travel through, life we want to know if what we're expecting is coming soon, especially if it's something good. We want to know when will our wait be over? When will what's been promised — often with some hype and great anticipation built-in — finally arrive?

With New York City's recent elections, so much has been already been written and so many pundits have already said — the obvious: "Elections have consequences." We know that! But with time left to go before there are new faces in City Hall, some folks are already wondering: "Are we here yet?"

The "Soon" answer will be met with eager anticipation for some, while for others, it would be hard to hide their trepidation.

For the next question on the minds of many, "Where we do go from here?" (...once "here," or "there," of course), maybe we should consider looking for advice from someone who, no doubt, has quelled riotous children successfully (from time to time) through the words of the great Grinch

(who, of course, stole Christmas):

"Maybe Christmas doesn't come from a store; Maybe Christmas means a little more... Christmas Day will always be, As long as we have 'WE.'" (That is, of course, Dr. Seuss.)

We, is the American voter. That "We" understands that the principles of the American democracy derive from documents like the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, and the hard-fought-for values of the American people. That is the we. And we is... almost "there, yet."

In this recent election, locally and nationwide, millions of "we's" felt a sense of duty and the obligation to stand up for those values and make our opinion(s) known. No, democracy is not a glitzy holiday gift. And it's so much more than a bumper sticker that peels off or a 30-second ad, almost immediately forgotten. It's a long road trip, bound to have its... annoyances... along the way and no, we're not there yet. But we'll always be — We the American people.

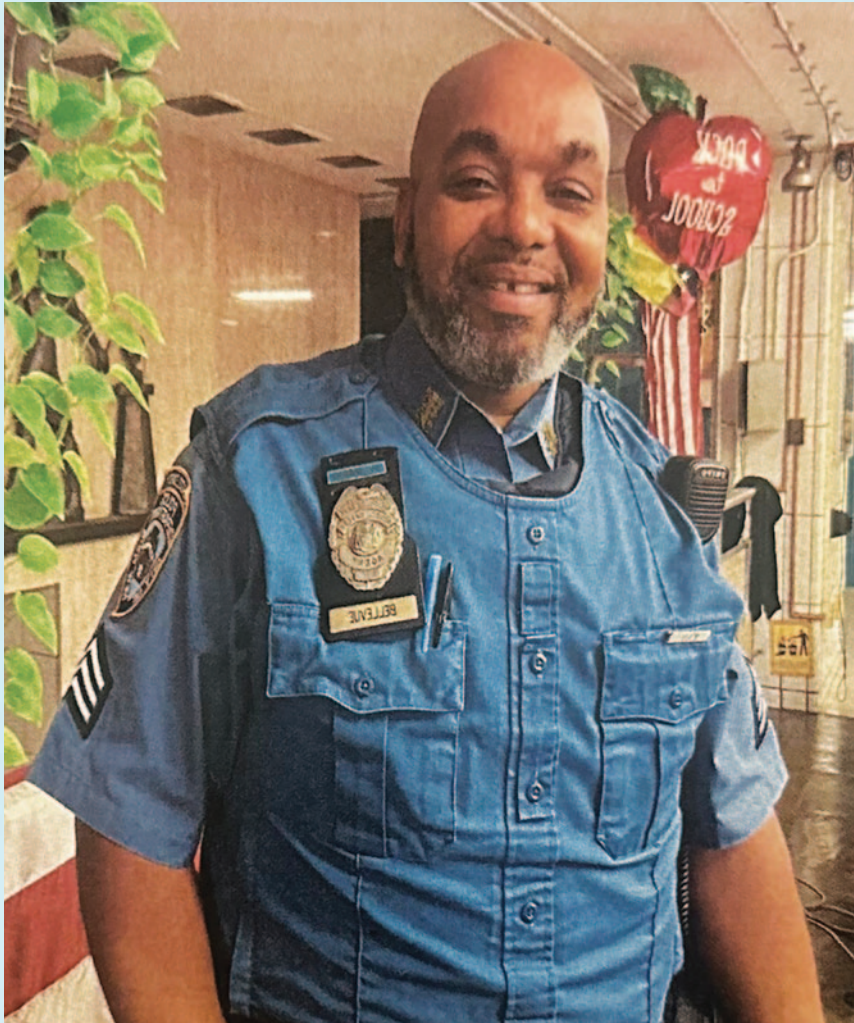
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. warned us about the negative consequences of not understanding that we're all interconnected and the power of being "WE" not just "me." To quote another "Doctor," this with far more accolades: "We must all learn to live together as brothers, or we will all perish together as fools. We are tied together in the single garment of destiny, caught in an inescapable network of mutuality. And whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly."



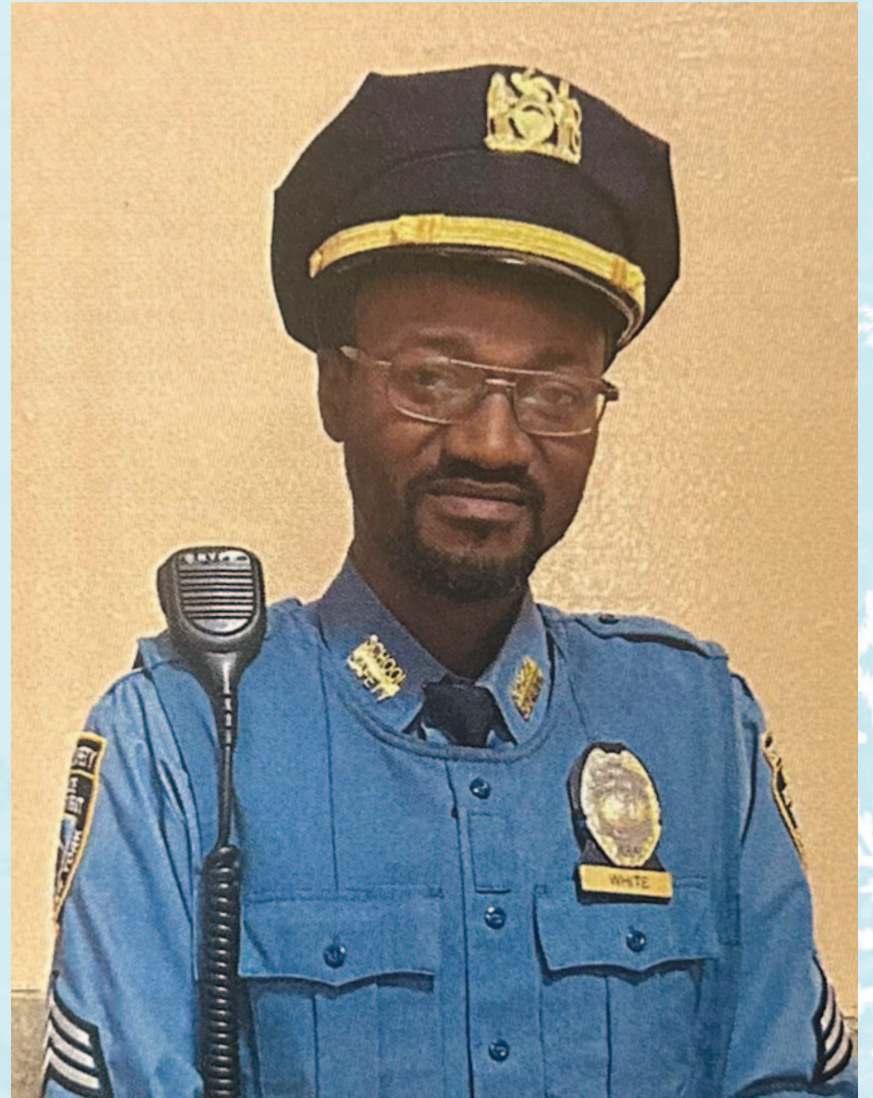
# MEMBERS IN THE NEWS Above and Beyond

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:

## SSAs Save the Day



On September 18, 2025, SSA 3 Ricardo Bellevue, assigned to Benjamin Cardozo High School, was instrumental in stopping a school threat by recovering a firearm. The suspected student posted on Instagram that he was going to “shoot up the school.” L3 Bellevue conducted a search of the perp and his book bag. A firearm was observed in the suspected perpetrator’s backpack. PO Williams confirmed it to be an actual firearm. The perp was arrested without incident. A job well done (!) by SSA 3 Ricardo Bellevue for his quick action to prevent undue harm to the school community.



On September 11, 2025, SSA 3 White, assigned to Bayside H.S., was instrumental in the identification of a student from a “Wanted” flyer for robbery. On September 17, 2025, the student was apprehended by the SSD/F.I.A. Units. SSA 3 White’s positive identification assisted in the apprehension and the Queens North Command commends his dedication to deterring crime.

### Local 237 NEWSLINE

216 West 14th St., New York, NY 10011  
646-638-8501  
Website: [www.local237.org](http://www.local237.org)  
e-mail Newsline: [pshafran@local237.org](mailto:pshafran@local237.org)

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#### Executive Board

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

**Phyllis S. Shafran**  
Editor

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

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



## Halloween with Local 237 Staff



(l-r) **Saul Fishman**, President of CSBA; **Miguel Gutierrez**, Mail Clerk; **Natalia Rosario**, Clerical Staff; **Lakeisha Milton**, Clerical Staff; **Aida Fabian**, Welfare Fund Receptionist; **Alexandra Irizarry**, Clerical Staff; **Liza Galletti**, Annuity Clerk; and **Alisa Vecchi**, Administrative Assistant.

# 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.*

## ACS Promotions to Sergeant



(l-r) Officer Xenia Diaz and Chief Perrino. (l-r) Officer Amish Rehman, and Chief Brown.



(l-r) Officer Angelique Reid and Chief Perrino.



(l-r) Chief Brown, Officer Emely Avila, and Chief Perrino.



Sergeant Hayward was recently promoted from Corporal to Sergeant at Queensborough Community College.



DHS, HRA, ACS graduation (l-r) Charlie Cotto, Local 237 Director of Operations, Law Enforcement and Citywide; Valedictorian Justina Irvin, and Derek Jackson, Director of Law Enforcement.



The Baruch College Bearcat Food Pantry held a food drive to support students facing food insecurity. As part of the "Give Back to Our Bearcats" initiative — named for the school's mascot — Baruch's public safety officers collected 800 donations such as pasta and soup packets, which they helped deliver to the pantry and stock along with student volunteers.

(l-r) Csa Louis Sanchez, Sergeant Lewis, Specialist Jackson, Sergeant Diaz, Chancellor Rodriguez and Baruch President David Wu.

## Breast Cancer Awareness



Breast Cancer Awareness luncheon held at Port Richmond High School Raiders Cafe. The SSAs' support, presence, and engagement made the event truly meaningful as we continue to stand together in support of this important cause. A wonderful reminder of our team spirit and commitment to awareness and hope.



Hospital Police Officer Sergeant Carter from Bellevue Hospital, shows off his Pink Patches for Breast Cancer Awareness month.



(l-r) Derek Jackson, Director of Law Enforcement; Sergeant Walters; Kangela Moore, Assistant Director of Law Enforcement; Lt. Doby; and Lt. Miller at the Office of the Medical Examiners for their quarterly meeting.



On September 11, 2025 York College Public Safety Officer Hamza stands next to reef acknowledging the lives lost during the 9/11 attack.



Staten Island I.S. 27 Halloween fun!



Congratulations to Agent Michon for winning one of the turkeys from CHQ.



Sergeant Cabrera from Coler Hospital. He and the Hospital Police staff provide a safe environment for the patients, staff, and visitors.



(l-r) SSA Joel Benjamin and Curtis Scott, Citywide Business Agent and Local 237 Executive Board Trustee, at PS 308.

# Law Enforcement Division *Continued*

## Staten Island School Bus Fire



On November 14, 2025, while on routine patrol after dropping off an MOS for school, **L3 DiGioia**, substituting for the regular agent, was driving down Richmond Avenue, past the Staten Island Mall, when he observed a school bus (IC bus company) on fire in the parking lot. He proceeded into action — he first checked the bus to ensure the bus was empty, then retrieved the fire extinguisher from the back of the van and attempted to help put the fire out while notifying Dispatch via radio for FDNY to respond. Thankfully, there were no injuries, no one aboard the bus, and the fire was put out. And L3 DiGioia just considered it another day on patrol.

## SI Karaoke Live Event



Staten Island held a Karaoke Live Event in October to bring agents together. Thank you for coming out and making the event a fun and memorable day!



Harlem Hospital hosts employee event (l-r) **Captain Supall, Sergeant Roman, Sergeant Cardona and Kangela Moore** (participants).



Queens College Campus Peace Officers **Sergeant Dieudonne and Sergeant Maldonado** beginning their tour to keep everyone safe.

## Retiree Community Group Meeting



A big thank you to Local 237's **Julie Kobe, Edith Johnston and Jannette Taveras** for helping arrange this Retiree Community Group meeting at Michael J Patrides. It was very informative and the refreshments were appreciated by the attendees.

## Staten Island Command and Staten Island DA Team Up



Staten Island Command had a meet and greet with Staten Island DA **Michael McMahon** and his staff to discuss youth crime and to lend us all the support we need. The meeting was very informative and both sides learned from each other and the DA support is greatly appreciated.



Congratulations to **Officers George Boateng, Craig Spears and Carmen Barker** (not photographed) for their years of service with Jacob Javits Convention Center.



Staten Island congratulates and awards (l-r) **SSA Lisa Maurentt, SSA Paulo Dasilva, SSS Stewart with SSA 3 Franceschini, and SSA Carmella Pinto** for 20 years of service to the Department. We thank you for your dedication.

# 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.*

## 2025 Safety Symposium



(l-r) Ken Franco, Business Agent; Noberto Luna, Assistant Director of Housing; Jaleesa Moye, Business Agent, Ana Reyes, Administrative Secretary; Carl Giles, Director of Housing; Shakera Ebanks, Esq., Senior Counsel; Shavelle Knox, Assistant Director of Housing; Susan McQuade, Local 237 Safety Coordinator; and Ken Roper, Business Agent and Assistant to the President.



President Gregory Floyd participates in the Symposium.

*Happy Holidays to All*



**Kashaunda Smith**  
Marlboro Houses, Caretaker I  
*Happy for new things to come in the New Year in her career. Wishing all Happy Holidays.*



**Lisa Buggs**  
Breukelen Houses, Caretaker J  
*Looking forward to the holidays with great expectations for the New Year. Wish all a great safe Holiday season.*



**Francis Astudillo**  
Vandalia Houses, Housing Assistant  
*Happy for a new year ahead and getting closer to retirement. Looking forward to a safe and prosperous New Year for all.*



**Kevin John**  
Vandalia Houses, Supervisor Of Caretakers  
*Kevin is looking forward to the New Year as well as retirement. Happy Holidays to all.*



**Antawana Wallace**  
Heat Plant Technician  
Special Teams



**Anthony Best**  
Vandalia Houses, Maintenance  
*Grateful for getting through the year safely. Looking forward to seeing the new come, and new things the New Year can bring. Happy Holidays to all.*



**Kelly Sameuls**  
Breukelen Houses, Supervisor of Caretakers  
*Looking forward to the Holidays and new year to come. Expecting great things. Happy Holidays to all.*



**Shateek Young**  
Vandalia Houses, Maintenance Worker  
*Looking forward to new good things ahead the New Year can bring. Wishing all Happy Holidays.*

# 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.*



(l-r) **Doug Calder**, **Firett Grullon**, **Alex Palazzda** NYPD maintenance workers Floyd Bennet Field; and **Curtis Scott**, Citywide Business Agent and Local 237 Executive Board Trustee.



CUNY Benefits Fair at Lehman College: (l-r) **Alex Torres**, Maintenance Worker; **Len Proctor**, Welfare Funds Deputy Director; and **Francisco Vargas**, Maintenance Worker.



CUNY Benefits Fair at Lehman College: (l-r) **Bianca Jones**, Citywide Business Agent; and **Albert Edwards**, Maintenance Worker.



CUNY Benefits Fair at Lehman College: (l-r) **Frank Camuglia**, Cement Mason; and **Bianca Jones**.



CUNY Benefits Fair at Lehman College: **Len Proctor**.



(l-r) **Bianca Jones** and **Nicholas Portela**, FDNY Stock Worker Level II.

# 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:*



Happy retirement Mr. Wade



Staten Island Command thanks and congratulates the recent retirees on their new journeys. Thank you for your dedication.

## Congratulations to Katie Grate on her retirement

After 10 years with the Training and Education Department, Assistant Director, Katie Grate, is retiring. The students, faculty, and staff who know Katie can attest to her warm, jovial, and light-hearted spirit.

Katie was essential to the Education Department's operations. She was a liaison between the instructors and students, making sure everyone was informed and in sync. She also kept impeccable payroll and financial documents. A penny didn't come in or go out without Katie seeing it first! Her kind smile was welcome and appreciated by all, especially after a hard day.

It's bittersweet to say goodbye, and a little bit of light will leave when she goes. Still, we are grateful for the time we have shared, and we are excited for the wonderful memories (and cruises to come) her next chapter will bring. Thank you so much, Katie, for all you have given to the Education Department and the members of Local 237.

# 2025: That Was The Year That Was!

So many important stories, worldwide and locally, made the headlines throughout the year. Teamsters Local 237 had many news-worthy stories as well. We recall several of them in this year-end wrap up of 2025.



# 2026: What Can We Expect. Boom? Blast? or Blunder?

New Year predictions are like weather forecasts: If they're wrong, you can't sue the weatherman..... if they're correct, you're glad you brought an umbrella.

## National Teamsters Hispanic Caucus Bi-Annual Convention

This highly anticipated event, held every two years, was a huge success. It took place from June 17 to June 22 in San Diego, California. Ruben Torres was elected by acclamation as Secretary-Treasurer of the National Teamster Hispanic Caucus for the sixth time.



(Fifth from left, l-r) Ruben Torres, Secretary-Treasurer of the National Teamster Hispanic Caucus and President of Teamster Local 856; Fred Zuckerman, IBT Vice President; and Sean O'Brien, IBT General President, pictured with participants of the National Teamster Hispanic Caucus Convention.



(l-r) Ray Torres, Vice-President of Teamsters Local 853 and IBT rep of the Warehouse Division with Ruben Torres.

## Heroes at Lincoln Hospital

On Sunday morning 07/27/2025, two officers PO Batista and PO Guzman responded to the ER restroom, where a woman was unexpectedly giving birth. PO Batista swiftly rescued the newborn from the toilet, where the baby was submerged in water, covered in blood, and had the umbilical cord wrapped around its neck. Officer Batista carefully removed the cord and handed the baby to the mother. Both received immediate medical attention on 5A. PO Batista's quick actions saved the baby's life.

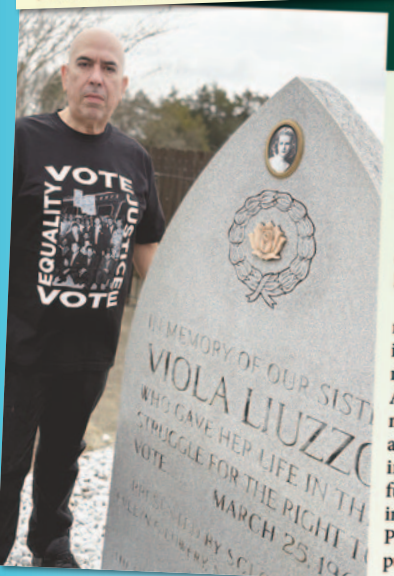


(l-r) Officer Ismael Batista and Officer Wildemir Guzman.

## James R. Hoffa Memorial Scholarship Recipients

Thomas Kelly, a relative of Local 237 Teamster member Adrian Kelly and Maureen Mellett, a relative of Local 237 Teamster member Declan Mellett have been awarded the James R. Hoffa Memorial 2025 academic scholarship for high school seniors.

As the New Year approaches, we look to a fresh start and a new beginning. It's a tradition held by many to spend some time reviewing the last year and make a resolution or a wish for the New Year. Lose weight, stop smoking, spend less money, listen to your spouse more are just some of the resolutions that top the list. We know when we make resolutions that, at best, are wishful thinking, they hold no penalties if they don't last. For sure, the most resolute thing about New Year's resolutions and wishes is that, although we make them with sincerity and plan to keep them in earnest when made, there's the sense that we can always make them next year again. In fact, 88% of New Year's resolutions fail – 80% of them are over, forgotten or just abandoned by March of the new year. New Years is indeed a time during which many reflect on their lives – sometimes with regret – sometimes with anger about what went wrong – but more often with thanks and with hope for a better year ahead. There are always celebrities who have weighed in with their New Year hopes, predictions, aspirations, and advice. Oprah Winfrey famously said: "Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right." Albert Einstein advised: "Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow." Maya Angelou noted: "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." Mark Twain suggested that: "New Year's Day is the accepted time to make your regular annual good resolutions. Next week you can begin paving hell with them as usual." John Lennon said: "Count your age by friends, not years. Count your life by smiles, not tears." Michelle Obama encouraged youngsters to: "Choose people in your life who lift you up." Mohammed Ali gave this advice: "I hated every minute of training. But I said, don't quit. Suffer now and live the rest of your life a champion." Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. counseled his followers to "Take the first step in faith – you don't need to see the whole staircase, just the first step." Or when Frank Sinatra sang: "The best is yet to come babe and won't it be fine. You think we've seen the sun but you ain't seen it shine." And even Dr. Seuss had some advice with this philosophical thought: "Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory." And there are some other celebrities who also chimed in such as Oscar Wilde, the famous playwright and poet who said "Be yourself; everyone else is already taken." Nelson Mandela said: "It always seems impossible until it's done." and "Walt Disney also told us: All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them.



## SELMA AT 60

Ruben Torres, Local 237 Executive Board Vice President, and in his capacity as Assistant Director on the Human Rights and Diversity Commission for the IBT, was in Selma, Alabama to mark the 60th anniversary — March 7, 1965 — of the fight for the right to vote denied to Blacks in that state. That day was known as "Bloody Sunday" because the peaceful protesters were met with violence by state troopers, deputies and men on horseback as they marched across the Edmund Pettus Bridge. Among those remembered was Viola Liuzzo, a white mother of five, was a civil rights activist who was murdered in 1965 after participating in the Selma to Montgomery march. She was the wife of a Teamsters Union organizer, Anthony "Jim" Liuzzo. On March 25, 1965, while driving between Selma and Montgomery, Liuzzo was shot and killed by Klansmen, who were in a car with an FBI informant. Liuzzo's death shocked the nation, and her funeral was attended by prominent civil rights leaders, including Martin Luther King Jr. and Teamsters General President James R. Hoffa. Many believe her sacrifice helped push for the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

## George Wade Retires!

George Wade, Citywide Business Agent has retired after 16 years on the job at Teamsters Local 237. At a recent retirement party held in his honor, President Gregory Floyd may have said it best by describing George "as a man of integrity who says what he does and does what he says." As for what George plans for his retirement, he said he is simply "looking forward to enjoying his family and life in general—both made easier to achieve because of Teamsters Local 237."



(l-r) Donald Arnold, Local 237 Executive Board Secretary-Treasurer and the Director of the Citywide Division; Gregory Floyd, President, Teamsters Local 237; Bianca Jones, Citywide Business Agent; George Wade, Retired Assistant Director of Citywide; Curtis Scott, Citywide Business Agent and Local 237 Executive Board Trustee; Jeanette Taveras, Local 237 Executive Board Recording Secretary and Law Enforcement Business Agent; and Cathy Rice, Long Island Business Agent and Trustee on the Executive Board.

## SHOP STEWARD SHOUTOUT

**HOUSING**

**Jeremy Buckery**  
Caretaker X, Fulton Houses  
A motivated and driven Shop Steward who goes above and beyond to help coworkers and supervisors.

**Trevor Hoffman**  
Maintenance Worker, Drew Hamilton Houses  
An advocate for his coworkers even in rough situations.

## SSA Jerome Battye Averts a Tragedy



SSA Jerome Battye's quick response helped to avert a tragedy at Forest Hills High School in Queens when two male students got into a fight in which one of them pulled a knife on the other. The Dean and additional units were contacted and the student with the knife was issued a Juvenile Report by the 112 Police Precinct where the weapon was vouchered.

## 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!

**Cadira Thomas - Storeroom Keeper**  
We would like to congratulate member Cadira 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.

## Fifty Years of Local 237 Legal Services

By Jennifer Hudson, Esq.  
Director of Local 237 Legal Services Plan  
We all know that working people can thank the Labor Movement for improving our quality of life by giving us things, such as the weekend, the 40-hour workweek, and overtime pay. Teamster Local 237 Union Members can also thank their union for being one of the first Union Legal Service Plans, providing Local 237 members with free legal services for many of the common

created the Teamsters Local 237 Plan to such (legal) services will well-being of Eligible Members. In the fifty years since the Legal Services Plan was established, it has assisted Active Members with over 150,000 cases, in either cases their homes, fight for their wills, make sure they get what they want, and get a fresh start by filing for bankruptcy. The plan was on the verge of being dismantled when the

## HISTORIC RECORD ACHIEVED



The Special Services Section Team did a phenomenal job during an unannounced scanning on Thursday, March 6, 2025. Team members confiscated a total of 90 weapons at Cooperative Tech in Manhattan North Command. Never has such a feat been accomplished in one day! The Scanning Team returned on the next day and confiscated 21 more items, bringing the remarkable grand total of one hundred and eleven weapons in just two days. Special Services Team members included: SSS Yamiralis Arroyo; SSA3 Robert Jackson, George Gayle Jr., Tiffany Reyes, Drea Brewsters, Jahmiel Warner, Austin Hunter, Sandra Reid, And SSA's Sean Simon, Juan Guerrero, Cesar Soriano, Christine Haynes, Jennifer Freeman, Alexa Dela-Cruz, Nyaja Burton and Shaniya Wright.

## 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 Bodnarain, 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 Geordie Du Pont, Associate General Counsel, Javits Center.

## Bestows Lifetime and Legacies Awards

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

## President Floyd Convenes A General Membership Meeting

Teamsters Local 237 President, Gregory Floyd recently convened a meeting of the General Membership. Members were updated on upcoming events, such as the Labor Day Parade, and also received important information on the many programs and services provided to them by the union. In addition, members had the opportunity to ask questions and receive answers on-the-spot.



(l-r) Executive Board Trustees Cathy Rice and Curtis Scott; Recording Secretary Jeanette Taveras; President Floyd at the podium; Vice President Ruben Torres and Secretary Treasurer, Donald Arnold.

## LILLY THE MOVIE



Unveiling a photo of Lilly Ledbetter (in green) and President Gregory Floyd (at the podium) presenting the city to settle and end gender based pay discrimination of School Safety Agents.

Starring Patricia Clarkson, John Benjamin Hickey and Thomas Sadoski, LILLY is based on the remarkable and inspiring life of fair pay activist Lilly Ledbetter, who fought for fair pay from corporations to the courts, then on to the Supreme Court, Congress and ultimately The White House.

## 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.



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





# LONG ISLAND REPORT



**John Gallagher**, Long Island Business Agent (l) with Syosset Library Members. Saying hello to all.



(l-r) **John Gallagher** passing out 2026 calendar books to Commack School District. Pictured with Head Custodian and member **Todd Raplee**.

## Making Needed Repairs



West Islip School District Maintenance members saving the district money, in lieu of using private contractors to repair the leaking steam pipes in Paul J. Bellew Elementary School. Local 237 members **Troy, Tom, Matt** and **John** took care of it all.

# Welcome New Members



New West Islip School District Secretary Unit member at Beach Street Middle School **Kathleen Slayback** (r) getting signed up by Business Agent **John Gallagher** (l).



Plainview Old Bethpage Schools new member at Stratford Road **Maria Mora Mendez** (r) with John Gallagher (l) signing her up.



Port Jefferson Schools and lifelong Teamster **Rich Lautato** (r) retires after a 40 year career. Pictured with **Benny Carezza**, Director of the Long Island Division and Trustee on the Executive Board (l).

# POLITICAL AND LABOR NEWS

## Scouting of America, Greater New York Councils, 40th Annual "Good Scout" Salute to Labor Award Luncheon

In recognition of the support that Organized Labor has always shown Scouting of America, an annual luncheon is held to express *thanks* and pay a special tribute to labor leaders who exemplify *the mission of scouting*: "To prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law." The Oath, which was administered to luncheon attendees, includes the pledge: "On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country...". The Scout Law, also administered at the Luncheon, requires the Scouts to personify such values as being: *Trustworthy, Loyal, Brave and Kind*. Scouting of America Board Members' honorees have all demonstrated an unwavering dedication to the Mission, Oath and Law that have helped countless youngsters to become well-prepared and productive adults. ■



Scouts of NYC and Gregory Floyd (r) pledge the Oath.



(l-r) Two Scouts of NYC; Gregory Floyd, President, Teamsters Local 237; Saroya Friedman-Gonzalez, Scout Executive and Chief Executive Officer, Greater New York Councils Scouting America; Fallon Ager-Norman, International Vice President and Region 1 Director, United Food and Commercials Workers Union; Honoree, Jack Caffey, President, Retail Wholesale & Department Store Union Local 1102; Honoree, Tomas Fret, President, Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1181; Carolyn Rinaldi, Vice President, Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1181; John B. Pescitelli, President, M3 Technology; and two more Scouts of NYC.



Luncheon Master of Ceremonies Gregory Floyd, President of Local 237 addresses the audience.



(l-r) Two Scouts of NYC, Honoree Jack Caffey, Fallon Ager-Norman and a Scout of NYC.



(l-r) Scout of NYC, Honoree Tomas Fret, two Scouts of NYC and Carolyn Rinaldi.



(l-r) Honoree Jack Caffey, with Gregory Floyd.



(l-r) Honoree Tomas Fret, with Gregory Floyd.



(l-r) Scout of NYC, with Gregory Floyd.

## Free, in-person benefits help in your Council District

Find your Council District office and connect with an accredited Veterans Service Officer (VSO). Learn more at [nyc.gov/vetvallone](http://nyc.gov/vetvallone). The NYC Department of Veterans' Services, the NYC Council, and Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) are bringing accredited Veterans Service Officers (VSOs) to Council District offices across the five boroughs.

Through the Vallone Veteran Resource Center Initiative, accredited Veterans Service Officers (VSOs) hold recurring office hours in Council District offices citywide. Veterans, Service Members, and families can receive free, in-person assistance to prepare and file VA disability claims, check claim status, and connect to additional supports—mental health, housing, legal, employment, education, and caregiver services.

How it works:

- Find your district: Use the Council District Map or Address Search.
- Contact the District Office: Dates and times are set and maintained by Council Member offices.
- Bring what you can: Photo ID; DD-214/service documentation; VA letters or prior claim numbers; list of health conditions and treatments. ■



# POLITICAL AND LABOR NEWS



## New Challenges and Hope for the New Year

By Saul Fishman

President, Civil Service Bar Association (CSBA)

It's now official. New York will have a new Mayor as of January 1st. How will this change affect our city's priorities, budget choices and agency leadership? Will our contribution towards making the city run in a fair, even-handed and lawful manner be valued? Will there be much-needed agency attorney staffing increases, signed off by the new Mayor via the Office of Management & Budget, or will instead funding for promotional opportunities and new hires diminish and our ranks further atrophy via attrition? Will it be a case of "meet the new boss, same as the old boss"? Time will tell.

At every opportunity, we intend to continue reminding the powers that be that we are a title documented as both difficult to recruit and retain. Yes, our beloved city, our employer (and for most of us, our home) is facing strong headwinds. In case you haven't noticed, the current Federal government seems to relish attacking our democratically elected leaders and the most vulnerable among us, and to cut essential funding at every opportunity.

Are we concerned? Absolutely. Will we panic? Absolutely not! Our city and our union have faced tough times before. Budget shortfalls, recessions, hurricanes, COVID, misguided, neglectful leadership diminishing our aspirations for promotion. You name it, we've seen it. Yes, it had its cost, both to some of us who remain and to the many who chose to seek more lucrative and appreciative employment elsewhere.

We will persevere and advocate for you, for a reasonable and ethical workload, adequate support staff and resources, clear priorities, and above all, to be treated with the dignity and respect which we all deserve! Dignity and respect start with clear communication about both expectations and priorities, and the opportunity for meeting as needed with your Supervisor for guidance, training and support.

Speaking of meeting with your Supervisors, always be mindful that if you are in a meeting that seems to be leading to disciplinary consequences, you may ask that the meeting stop until you can have a representative from your union present!

Let's review what we have been able to accomplish with the outgoing Mayoral administration:

- We were a leader in the drive for remote work for NYC municipal employees, and succeeded after a campaign which lasted multiple years and a second administration.
- We were able to get all residency restrictions waived for our titles, successfully convincing the city that it was a necessary step to attract and retain us, since we are definitely a difficult to recruit and retain title.
- On top of salary, recurring increment and longevity differential increases, we received an extra RIP payment (after the first and fifth year of employment in our titles) during the last round of bargaining to facilitate recruitment and retention.
- We negotiated additional funding for our Welfare Fund to maintain and enhance benefits.
- We, as part of the MLC, have again succeeded in keeping our Health Insurance premium-free.

As always, more progress is needed, a fair amount of which the outgoing administration refused to provide. One of the goals of our Professional Development Committee, which met repeatedly with the City's Office of Labor Relations and OMB, was to create a voluntary *Mentoring Program* on agency time. They slow-walked us, as is their specialty. Other ongoing efforts are to make remote work permanent and to modernize the badly outdated Levels I - IV Agency Attorney "Tasks & Standards". We will be negotiating with a new Mayor when our contract expires next October.

In at least one way, 2025 has been difficult for us, both professionally and personally. We lost a pillar of strength, knowledge and dedicated service in Aldona Vaiciunas, our Grievance Coordinator and Office Administrator of 25 years. She is missed each and every day, so much so that no clerical or support staffer can possibly replace her. Instead, we are seeking another attorney serving as a Business Agent/ Grievance Advocate.

A new year. New challenges. New hope. Thankful for having each other and that we are not Federal employees, who despite being tenured and having long-established contractual rights, are being laid off by the hundreds of thousands. It's an outrage. But at least they have unions that are fighting back and now having some success in the courts. ▮

## A New Mayor and Other Election News By Vito R. Pitta, Esq.

The election on November 4th saw record turnout with more than 2 million total votes cast, the most since 1969. The other big headline of election night was Zohran Mamdani's victory in the mayoral election, with 50.4% of the vote.

Incumbent Public Advocate Jumaane Williams won reelection with 72.7% of the vote. Mark Levine was elected Comptroller with 74.9% of the vote. Brad Hoylman-Sigal won his race for Manhattan Borough President with 80.7% of the vote. And Borough Presidents Donovan Richards, Vanessa Gibson, Antonio Reynoso, and Vito Fossella all won reelection (with between 68.2% and 82.6% of the vote).

Only one incumbent City Council Member lost. In the 13th Council District in the Bronx, Democrat Shirley Aldebol defeated Republican incumbent, Kristy Marmorato. Before retiring, Aldebol served as Executive Vice President of 32BJ overseeing public schools. In addition to Shirley Aldebol, there are 9 new council members-elect, and include: Harvey Epstein (CD2), Virginia Maloney (CD4), Elsie Encarnacion (CD8), Justin Sanchez (CD18), Shanel Thomas-Henry (CD21), Ty Hankerson (CD28), Phil Wong (CD33), and Kayla Santosuosso (CD49).

The conclusion of this general election officially marks the beginning of the campaign for a new City Council Speaker, which will conclude when the 51-Member Council selects a new Speaker in January 2026 to replace the current Speaker, term-limited Council Member Adrienne Adams.

The current front-runners for City Council Speaker are Council Member Julie Menin from Manhattan's 5th Council District, and Council Member Crystal Hudson from Brooklyn's 35th Council District. Other candidates include Council Member Amanda Farias from the 18th Council District in the Bronx, and Council Member Selvena Brooks-Powers, from the 31st Council District in Queens.

### The Aland Etienne Safety and Security Act

One of the most consequential pieces of legislation for Local 237 members to be aware of was introduced in the City Council by Speaker Adams and Council Member Crystal Hudson on September 26th. Introduction 1391, the Aland Etienne Safety and Security Act, would establish minimum pay standards, benefits, and safety training for the thousands of security guards working throughout New York City.

Upon her introducing the bill, Speaker Adams said, "Security officers like Aland are integral to New York City's public safety infrastructure, but too often they are not compensated or treated with the dignity and respect they deserve."

The Act is named in memory of Aland Etienne, a 32BJ security officer and one of the four people killed in the July 2024 mass shooting at 345 Park Avenue. Etienne gave his life to try to protect employees and visitors to the Park Avenue office building on the evening of July 28th.

The proposed legislation would establish standard security officer training for the 60,000 private security officers in NYC that reflects the City's unique public safety risks. It also seeks to address the problem of retaining well-trained and experienced security officers by establishing improved wages, benefits and paid time-off standards.

Currently, the workforce endures a yearly turnover rate of 77 percent. In reality, only 23 percent of the City's private security officers work in the field for more than a year. Etienne worked at 345 Park Avenue for 6 years.

The Act would also require employers of security officers to provide an additional 16-hours of emergency preparedness and active shooter training within the first 120 days of an officer's hiring.

The introduction of the Aland Etienne Safety and Security Act by the City Council has cast in stark relief the overwhelming financial stress most security officers experience about making rent, paying medical bills and feeding their families. According to an August 2025 study by the UC Berkeley Labor Center, most NYC security officers are enduring poverty wages.

The Act, which we believe will be enacted by the end of the year, will serve to retain good security officers, improve their livelihoods, and do much to improve public safety in the City's public buildings.

We also believe it will be invaluable to Local 237's members, particularly as the union begins to negotiate its next collective bargaining agreement.

Aland Etienne made the ultimate sacrifice for his fellow New Yorkers. The Aland Etienne Safety and Security Act will lead to the retention and improved livelihoods of better trained officers and enhanced public safety. It is a truly fitting tribute to an extraordinarily courageous individual. ▮

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.



## New York State Legislators return to Albany in January 2026.

Here's the calendar of when they are meeting in session.

JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
25	26	27	28	29	30	31							29	30	31					

APRIL							MAY							JUNE						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4					1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30				
							31													

- January 7: 2026 Legislative Session convenes
- January 19: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- January 20: Final Day for Submission of Executive Budget
- February 16: Presidents' Day
- April 1: Beginning of new Fiscal Year
- May 25: Memorial Day

Keeping you in the know



# What A Year!

By Jennifer E. Hudson, Esq.  
Director of Local 237 Legal Services Plan

*"No matter what accomplishments you make, somebody helped you." — Althea Gibson*

As union members, we know that this sentiment is true – working together, helping each other, and acting collectively are essential components to our accomplishments.

This has been especially true for me as I took the helm of the Local 237 Legal Services Plan in January of this year. The accomplishments of the Legal Services Plan this year are because of the generous help and welcome I have received from everyone here at the union.

Colleagues have invited me to speak with new members, Supervisors, and retirees, about the Legal Services Plan benefit. Associates from other departments took the time to educate our staff about what they do to provide support to the members. Different departments have worked with the Legal Services Plan to assist members. The hard work and dedication of the staff in the Union, and of course the Legal Services Department continues to inspire me.

Perhaps the most fruitful collaboration of the year has been with the members themselves who come to our department in need of legal assistance, eager to work with the attorneys to bring about the best outcome possible in their cases.

The Legal Services Plan has helped countless members avoid eviction, helped numerous members buy and sell their homes, and helped to prevent foreclosure of members' homes. We have assisted members as they fight for custody of their children, and as they face the challenges of divorce. We have helped to stop paycheck garnishments and assisted members in a fresh start through bankruptcy. We have assisted members in drafting many wills and other estate documents.

Local 237 Legal Services Attorneys can be found with members in court-houses in every borough every day of the week. The members help us to help them in their cases; we are able to accomplish so much more when we work together.

Local 237 Legal Services Plan has had a busy, year, full of accomplishments that are the result of help from colleagues and the members!

We look forward to continuing to tackle members' legal issues together in the coming year. ▮



# Teamsters Local 237, is here for you

By Diana Nappi  
Director of the Welfare Funds



On top of the many benefits that are provided to our members covered by our welfare funds such as dental, optical, prescription to keep our members and their eligible dependents stay healthy, we also believe that lifestyle resources contribute to maintaining a stress-free life. Some of these resources are listed below and are at **no cost to our members**.

*We encourage you take advantage of these services to keep your life healthy.*

## FINANCIAL PLANNING PROGRAM

Take advantage of the Teamsters Local 237 Welfare Fund Financial Planning Program through Stacey Braun Associates, Inc. Available for all City-wide and Housing members. The program is designed to provide you with a personal financial planner at **no cost to you**.

Certified Financial Planners® and Registered Investment Advisors who are available to work with you to provide **objective and unbiased** advice regarding:

Debt management/deferred comp allocations decisions/retirement planning/insurance investing college planning/budgeting/rollovers and much more

Contact Stacey Braun Associates, Inc. at 1-888-949-1925 email [JLandicho@staceybraun.com](mailto:JLandicho@staceybraun.com).

Stacey Braun representatives are prohibited from selling investment products or insurance.

## SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Karla Steinberg, LMSW,  
Membership Social Worker **646-638-8068**  
[ksteinberg@local237.org](mailto:ksteinberg@local237.org)

Do you know what type of help you need, but you aren't sure where or how to get it? If so, consider meeting with the union's Social Services Department to help point you in the right direction.

## LEGAL SERVICE PLAN

The Legal Services Plan represents members in a wide range of civil matters in 11 New York State covered counties. These matters include domestic relations (Family Court proceedings, divorce and separation), purchase and sale of primary residences (co-op, condo, 1-and 2-family homes), wills, power of attorney, health care proxies, adoptions, credit and consumer actions, tenant rights and bankruptcies. Representation can include consultation, legal research, drafting of documents and pleadings, and negotiation on your behalf with you in court.

A lawyer is provided at no cost to the member.

After paying a \$150 deductible, a \$500 litigation benefit is available for various court-related fees.

Contact the Legal Services Department at 212-924-1220 to schedule an appointment.

The Legal Service Plan does not handle matters outside of the New York covered counties, and some restrictions apply on case matters.

## PENSION COUNSELING SERVICES

Individual pension counseling is available on an appointment basis for Citywide and Housing members. Receive advice on pension options, procedures for applying for pensions, how to make the most of your retirement arrangements and other matters relating to your individual pension questions.

This six-week program is offered twice a year by Local 237 retirees Division. Topics such as pension, Social Security, health insurance coverage in retirement, and lifestyle adjustments are discussed in different sessions. Call the Retiree Division at 212-807-0555 for more information regarding retirement planning. ▮

## BE SAFE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

In 2024, Consumers spent a staggering **\$994 billion** during the Holiday Season. With that kind of money being spent, fraudsters want a piece of it.

Here are some tips to keep yourself safer online...

- Beware of emails from unknown sources with special offers. They may contain malware
- Change passwords regularly and use different ones for each device you have and each online account you have
- Don't let websites store your credit card info
- If applying in a store for a store card, ensure that the application is shredded. Don't let them leave your personal information laying around
- Update anti virus software to protect from external attacks
- Make sure you are shopping on a secure website. Look for the padlock symbol
- Check financial statements regularly for rogue transactions
- Use a credit card instead of a debit card. It offers you better protection from fraud

Whether we're online or offline, lets think about what information we're sharing and why we're sharing it. Protecting our identity is about common sense and good habits. Learn more and check out our 2 minute video by scanning the QR Code or click on the button below

[Learn More...](#)

Let's enjoy the holiday season shopping, not have cause to regret it!

[www.kidweek.com](http://www.kidweek.com) resolution  
Your Identity at Risk, Our Solutions at Work™



# A Free Gift for the Holidays

By David Bonington, CFP®  
Financial Planner, Stacey Braun Associates, Inc.



Once upon a time, several decades ago, I took a creative writing class. I don't believe anything I wrote was particularly memorable, but one of the things that has stayed with me after all this time was the way the instructor urged students to eliminate oxymorons and redundancies in stories they were writing. With very rare exceptions, she felt they cluttered and cheapened what could otherwise be good and even powerful work.

As you know, an Oxymoron is a figure of speech where one word (usually an adjective) paired with another (usually a noun) is contradictory - sometimes laughably so, as in "jumbo shrimp." There are others if you look: "open secret," "alone together," and "meteoric rise" are three more. Meanwhile, a Redundancy - a figure of speech where a word adds no meaning - are also plentiful if one is sensitized: "past experience," "unexpected surprises," and (my favorite) the double redundancy when, reading from the script, Metro-North/LIRR conductors remind passengers to take "your personal belongings" off the train - when "belongings," all by itself, would be enough.

But I'll summon one of today's common redundancies - the Free Gift - to describe a benefit available to you which really is Free and which very often becomes a Gift, too. Each of you can schedule no-cost, confidential, one-on-one meetings with a Certified Financial Planner® from Stacey Braun Associates. The program is covered by the Welfare Fund, and allows you to get professional, objective advice and information on financial topics like debt and credit management, budgeting, investing, taxes, and estate planning.

There is no sales pressure in these sessions because the Planners don't sell any products. The goal of every meeting is solely to address topics of most concern to the member by providing information, ideas, and suggestions.

It is a great time of year to take advantage of Stacey Braun's financial counseling benefit. And this year, it can be very important. Why? With July's changes to the tax code - many of them effective for 2025, and some only effective until 2028 - a great reason for a meeting would be to sort out how these changes will affect and very possibly be of benefit to you.

A final, wonderful feature of the benefit is its transferability. You can actually give a family member - a spouse/partner, parent, or child - the Gift of one of your hours. With the Holidays approaching, it's the time of year to reflect, relax, recharge, and rejuvenate. If a Stacey Braun Planner can provide you or a family member with financial advice or information which contributes to peace of mind at year-end, I would encourage you to schedule a meeting.

In the meantime, my best wishes to all readers for a safe, healthy, and happy Holiday Season. ▮

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.

# Felices Fiestas

Este año, la gran pregunta que hará Santa no será "¿te has portado bien o mal?", sino más bien: "¿cómo han afrontado usted y sus seres queridos tantos desafíos y situaciones adversas?". Acontecimientos inquietantes –algunos provocados por la acción humana y otros por la Madre Naturaleza– han generado dificultades sentidas en todo el mundo y también aquí, en nuestra comunidad. Sin duda, su impacto ha dejado una profunda huella en nuestro bienestar físico, emocional y espiritual. Sin embargo, en Local 237 hemos estado en la primera línea, trabajando con firmeza y dedicación para brindar estabilidad y tranquilidad a la vida de todas y todos los neoyorquinos. Como servidoras y servidores públicos municipales, la ciudadanía deposita su confianza en nuestro trabajo, y hemos respondido con responsabilidad y compromiso. Ustedes han conferido dignidad y honor al título de Empleado/a Público/a, y pueden tener la seguridad de que Santa les tiene muy presentes en su lista. Disfruten de esta temporada navideña.

**Gregory Floyd**  
 Presidente,  
 Teamsters Local 237





# With Deepest Sympathy

Holiday time is especially difficult for families who have lost a loved one. 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 of joyous holidays spent together will offer you peace and happiness.

**President Gregory Floyd, the Executive Board and Staff**



## Practice, Practice, Practice

By Karla Steinberg, MSW

Membership Social Worker

As the social worker for active members, I speak with a lot of people every year. I have noticed that many of our members put a lot of pressure on themselves and this pressure often prohibits them from leading the life they desire. While not specific to Local 237, I thought it might be helpful to discuss how to reconcile the crisis of imperfection, with the hope of self-betterment.

Putting pressure on yourself can look like a lot of things. For some, it means holding yourself to a standard that is impossible or unsustainable, for others it means pushing down emotions because you think you're not supposed to have them. I've met people who prioritize everyone around them over themselves, at great cost. Your patterns of behavior that do not serve your best interest do not need to define you. Nor do they have to remain, just because you have more practice doing them. You can effect change, but that means you have to take action.

You are a work in progress. If this sounds like you, congratulations; you're in good company. Whether you are thinking about resolutions for the new year, or lamenting where things went south in 2025, I offer you one of my favorite lines from a movie: "Every passing minute is another chance to turn it all around." Whether you've been postponing taking that free class offered by our education department, or avoiding opening that pile of bills, I encourage you to face your anxieties. Try feeling uncomfortable in a way that challenges you to be better. Just because you've always done something a certain way, doesn't mean you have to keep doing it that way.

With luck, you are still learning. As a child I heard one of my teachers say, "Don't practice your mistakes." It sounds so simple, but I haven't stopped hearing her whenever I do something the same way and expect "different results." People are prone to repeating their mistakes whether they're in relationships, choosing the same kind of people that maybe feel familiar but aren't the best for us, or dynamics that don't work in our own best interests. It's hard to try something new, mostly because we aren't good at it yet but that's why it's important to practice new skills. My hope for you is that you are brave enough and invested enough in your own self-growth to practice something new. I look forward to hearing from you now, and in the new year. ■



## Highlights from 2025

By Shanell Grayson

Director of Training and Education

Thanks to the support and leadership of President Floyd and the Executive Board, the hard-working Education Department staff, and our dedicated instructors, the Training and Education Department has successfully supported the changing needs of our members. Here are a few highlights from 2025:

More than...

- 10,000 Classroom Hours
- 6,000 Downloads of Materials on Local237.org
- 2,000 Members Registered for Classes on Local237.org
- 400 Class Recordings Shared
- 350 Weekly Email Responses
- 100 Caretakers Admitted to the Fundamentals of Heating Operations Course
- 90 Shop Stewards Received Shop Steward Training
- 60 Members Earned Defensive Driving Certificates
- 40 Stellar Students and Shop Stewards Featured Prominently on Local237.org and Newsline
- 35 Unique Workshops and Trainings
- 20 Members Awarded Computer Skills Certificates
- 5 Days of Class Offered Weekly (Including Saturdays)
- 15 Members Received and Won Civil Service Appeals
- 7 Education Fairs and Seminars Attended

Thank you to our loyal members for your efforts, your stories, and your feedback. We are so proud of all you have accomplished. We look forward to seeing both old and new faces in the new year. ■

## STUDENTS OF THE MONTH... IN THEIR OWN WORDS



### Sunday Afolabi - Housing Assistant/Inspector

I highly commend Local 237's Education Department. The preparatory classes were very organized. Throughout the duration of the training, the classes were well organized, and each trainer painstakingly used the period to teach and prepare us very well with the advantageous experience they had acquired during their careers. Training materials were provided for practice after every Zoom lecture. The teaching approach encouraged student participation and learning common tricks and gimmicks associated with the examination. Thanks to all who made the event happen.



### Ramona Brown - Campus Security Assistant

I have been a Local 237 Shop Steward at La Guardia Community College for 11 years. My experience as a Shop Steward has been very informative and a blessing. The Education Department at Local 237 hold annual Shop Steward training classes. These classes are a valuable tool that help to keep my skills sharp and on point. The classes give me a better perspective on how to utilize my communication skills, while perfecting solution-based approaches as a Shop Steward. It's important to attend these trainings for the well-being of my occupational roll. It is imperative that I remain sufficient in how I serve my colleagues as well as the public.

## Education Department's FREE Courses

### CIVIL SERVICE EXAM PREP CLASSES

- Plasterer (December)
- Stock Worker (December)
- Housing Assistant (January)
- Housing Exterminator (January)
- School Safety Agent (January)
- Supervisor of Housing Caretaker (January)
- Special Officer (February)
- Asbestos Handler (March)
- Maintenance Worker (March)
- Traffic Device Maintainer (March)

Visit [nyc.gov/examsforjobs](http://nyc.gov/examsforjobs) for details.

### SCHOLARSHIPS

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

### COURSES AT PARTICIPATING UNIONS

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

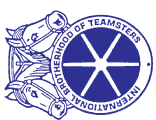
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