

LOCAL 237 NEWSLINE

Vol. 51, No. 4

Winter 2017

2017 Year-End Wrap-Up

How historians will evaluate 2017 is yet to be determined. In some ways, it was a troubling year in which terrorism once again struck our city, and raging hurricanes brought havoc and heartache to so many in our nation. But Local 237 had a year that saw achievements, resolutions and a victory in the hard-fought defeat of the NYS Constitutional Convention. The winter edition of Newsline will focus on some of the highlights of 2017, with a look at our "Best of the Best". We will also be considering what's ahead in 2018, keeping in mind the words of Oprah Winfrey: "Cheers to the new year and another chance for us to get it right."

A Season and Reason to Give Thanks

By Gregory Floyd

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

It's traditional that, at the end of the year, we reflect on the year that passed and start to think about the year to come. For some, the conclusion is like a Sinatra song or two: "Yes, it was a very good year" or "I have a regret or two, but did it my way." Another part of the year-end traditions is that we make New Year's resolutions, including the usual ones: "I'll go on a strict diet" or "I'll stop smoking" or "I'll be more patient with my spouse." Part of this tradition is the possibility that the resolution will not last past February.

When I think about 2017, I have bittersweet feelings. Our union has had several very proud moments during the year, but unfortunately they were necessitated by serious issues. On October 31, when New York City experienced the worst terrorist attack since 9-11, it was our School Safety Agents who were first on the scene and acted with calm and compassion. They helped to save lives. They have a tough job every day, protecting nearly one million public school students—including many of your children and grandchildren—but on that day, they were among the City's heroes. Then, on November 7th, Election Day, for us, probably the most important item on the ballot was Proposition 1, for voters to decide whether or not to have a Constitutional Convention. Union-busters and wealthy power brokers all came together to try to convince New York voters that the only way to improve State government was to make wholesale changes to the Constitution. Especially as public employees, your pension and many other labor safeguards and benefits for which you worked long and hard were in jeopardy. But, we came together too! Our members and retirees hit the streets. They got out the word. Armed with information and the best methods of persuasion, Proposition 1 was defeated by a whopping 83% and the labor movement showed that it is still a force in this State. Our members and retirees also joined our active members in rallies to right other wrongs: Local 3 members have been working without a contract with Spectrum for years and have been on strike for 6 months with the sticking point for any negotiations being health benefits; Governor Cuomo and Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi urging New Yorkers to "take back Congress" protesting the Administration's legislative proposals that jeopardize the quality of life for all New Yorkers. Again, Local 237 showed its solidarity and commitment to fairness, but it is regrettable that those circumstances required it.

As for 2018, I am cautiously hopeful. Certainly, unions in our State have flexed their muscle and demonstrated that we are an important political, social and economic force. Nationally, however, with the Janus case in front of the Supreme Court and some of the Administration's proposed policies and appointees putting a strain on union membership and working families, the challenges are great. But what I observed over this last year is that when the challenges are great, the greater the push we mount to meet those challenges. We did it in 2017. We'll do it in 2018. Happy Holidays! Now is the season and reason to give thanks. ■

How do you define the word "Hero"?



School Safety honorees with Gregory Floyd, President of Local 237 on the left, Derek Jackson, Director of Local 237's Law Enforcement Division on the right and members of the NYPD/School Safety Division, DOE, UFT and Stuyvesant High School's administration.

That is a question, **Gregory Floyd**, President of Teamsters Local 237, posed at a recent gathering. But he knew that the answer was right in front of him. 20 School Safety Agents from Stuyvesant High School were being honored for their heroism during the October 31 terrorist attack that left 8 dead and many injured. The worst assault in New York City since 9-11 was met with countless first responders who aided the injured and the dead. First on the scene were School Safety Agents who called the NYPD and EMS. Due to the swift actions of the Agents, a police officer shot the perpetrator, ending his shooting spree, and medical teams tended to the victim. Among the dignitaries on hand were: Borough President **Gale Brewer**; Brian Conroy, Assistant Chief of the NYPD/School Safety Division; **Ramon Garcia**, Assistant Commissioner, NYPD/School Safety Division; **Eric Contreras**, Principal, Stuyvesant High School; **Mark Rampersant**, Deputy CEO of Safety and Health for the DOE; **Jeffrey Povalitis**, Director of Safety for the UFT and **Joan Jaffe**, Chief, NYPD/School Safety Division. President Floyd helped to distribute the "Excellent Performance of Duty Award" to each of the Agents and told them: *"We hear the word hero used a lot. But the definition can vary. Most dictionaries describe a hero as someone who puts others before himself or herself. Someone who does things because they are the right thing to do. A hero is someone who does good just for the sake of doing good...someone who acts with a sense of responsibility and honor. On October 31, most School Safety Agents were probably thinking the worst part of the day would be dealing with trick-or-treaters. Some were probably worried if they'd make it home in time to take their own kids around their neighborhoods. Then, everything changed. They dove into action. They replaced*

calamity with calm. They combined the authority of law enforcement with the comfort of a loving parent. They were professional yet compassionate. Their training and natural instincts kicked in. They helped to save lives on that day. The work of School Safety Agents is never easy on any day, but that day was like none other. They were heroes." ■



Borough President Gale Brewer addresses the audience.



Bestowing the awards to the Agents are, left to right, DOE's Mark Rampersant, Gregory Floyd, Chief Brian Conroy and Commissioner Ramon Garcia.



Chief Joan Jaffee receives an award from Derek Jackson, Director of Local 237's Law Enforcement Division and Jeanette Taveras, Local 237 Trustee and Business Agent.

The following Members of Service from Manhattan South Command were assigned or responded to the terrorist attack on Tuesday, October 31, 2017

SSA III Tressa Roberts-Robinson, Task Force
SSA I Cindy Fernandez, Task Force
SSA I Samantha Bannister, Task Force
SSA I Keshia Ellis, Task Force
SSA I April Ruiz, Task Force
SSA I Yvedcy DeJesus, Task Force
SSA I Semintha Brown, Task Force
SSA I Saquan Fields, Task Force
SSA I Ebony Posey, Task Force
SSA I Omar Ruiz, Task Force
SSA I Benjamin Shipman, Task Force
SSA I Marc Worrell, Task Force
SSA I Calvin Croke, Task Force
SSA I Yesennia Franklin, Stuyvesant H.S.
SSA I Nicole Marciano-Whittle, Stuyvesant H.S.
SSA I Barbara Taylor, Stuyvesant H.S.
SSA I Tamara Smith, Stuyvesant H.S.
SSA I Chavaughn Moore, PS 150
SSA I Diana Ceneno, PS 234/Annex
SSA I Frances Navarro, PS 234/Annex
SSA I Stephanie Somerville, PS / IS 89
SSA I Antoinette Dyal, PS 276
SSA I Jalissa Sheppard, PS 276

Local 237 Member Services

UNION HEADQUARTERS

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

LOCAL 237 DIVISIONS

CITYWIDE DIVISION, 2nd Fl.

212-924-2000
Donald Arnold, Director
Derek Jackson, Director,
Law Enforcement Division
Randy Klein, Deputy Director

HOUSING DIVISION, 2nd Fl.

212-924-2000
Kevin Norman, Housing Director

LONG ISLAND DIVISION

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

RETIREE DIVISION, 8th Fl.

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

LOCAL 237 DEPARTMENTS

(Citywide and Housing)

SKILLED TRADES, 2nd Fl.

212-924-2000
Donald Arnold, Director

HEALTH AND SAFETY, 2nd Fl.

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

MEMBERSHIP, 3rd Fl.

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

WELFARE FUND, 3rd Fl.

212-924-7220
The Fund administers the eligi-
bility, enrollment, disability,
optical and death benefits
directly by the Fund's in-house
staff, as well as prescription
and dental programs indirectly.
Mitchell Goldberg, Director

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.
Office Hours:
Mon.- Fri. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Mary Sheridan Esq., Director
Kenneth Perry Esq.,
Deputy Director

EXECUTIVE OFFICES, 5th Fl.

212-924-2000
Gregory Floyd, President
Richard Hendershot,
Vice President
Ruben Torres,
Secretary-Treasurer

PERSONNEL, 5th Fl.

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

POLITICAL ACTION &

LEGISLATION, 5th Fl.

212-924-2000
Local 237 protects members'
rights by helping to sponsor
legislation that is important
to members, and by opposing
initiatives that would hurt
members.
Patricia Stryker, Director

GRIEVANCES/DISCIPLINARY PROBLEMS, 7th Fl.

212-924-2000
For grievances and job related
problems, first contact your
shop steward and/or grievance
representative. If they can't
resolve the issue, contact your
business agent.

Mal Patterson, Director of
Grievances and Hearings
Todd Rubinstein, Esq.,
Grievance Coordinator

CIVIL SERVICE BAR ASSN

7th Fl., 212-675-0519
Saul Fishman, President
Aldona Vaiciunas,
Office Administrator and
Grievance Coordinator
John Picucci, Esq.,
Grievance Representative
CSBA Welfare Fund
Alicare 866-647-4617

COMMUNICATIONS, 5th Fl.

646-638-8501
Phyllis S. Shafran, Director
Local 237 Newsline and
Retiree News & Views, Editor
Website: www.local237.org

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

8th Fl.
212-807-0550
Provides a variety of training
and educational advancement
opportunities for members.
Bertha Aiken, Director

USEFUL NUMBERS

FOR PRE-RETIRES

NYCERS

(New York City Employees Retirement System)

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

NYCERS Internet

www.nyclink.org/html/nycers

NYC Department of Education Retirement System

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

Social Security Administration

800-772-1213

NY State and Local Retirement Systems

518-474-7736



By Gregory Floyd

President, Teamsters Local 237

*and Vice President-at-Large on the General Board
of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters*

Three students, three families ripped apart. One student is dead; one critically wounded and the other awaits trial. Yet, at a community meeting with Mayor de Blasio, Chancellor Farina and what was termed “parent leadership”, the horrific incident involving a fatal stabbing and a critical wounding inside a Bronx school of two students by another student, who claimed he had been bullied by the two for a long time, never touched on a core question: How did a knife get into a classroom? Nor were there any irate parents from that Bronx community present to challenge the Mayor and Chancellor on their new school discipline policies which prevent School Safety Agents from intervening in situations like bullying, that could escalate into a tragedy, and principals from requesting metal detectors despite the fact that, when staff and students were polled, they responded that they feel unsafe in the school. Although the Mayor and Chancellor contend that school violence is down, what they have actually done is change the rules of measurement. They have also tried to do away with any tell-tale signs that violence exists, like metal detectors.

Instead, during the meeting, the Mayor and the Chancellor made many suggestions on how this stunning occurrence might have been avoided and what measures they are working on to keep it from occurring again. The suggestions ranged from hiring more guidance counselors specializing in bullying, to training teachers and other school personnel to be better able to identify the signs of bullying and engage in conflict resolution to defuse it. The importance of parents talking to their children was discussed at length, with the Chancellor suggesting, “have dinner with your children a couple of times a week.” She also touted a two-week training program for School Safety Agents which would help them learn how to “comport themselves to be more sensitive to the needs of students, and how to smile as they enter the school building. A smile can work wonders.” Despite a report that weapon seizures in schools have spiked by 48% from July 1 through September 30 compared with the same time period last year, the Mayor stated that “violent crime in public schools is down by 18%; bullying is taken seriously and cannot be ignored or tolerated in public schools.” He pledged more funds to combat it, and will seek federal assistance so that “every school will have access to mental health resources.”

Missing from the hour and one-half discussion was any question of why a knife was able to get into the school in the first place. We now know that a second knife was found in the same school, same classroom a day later. While the Mayor, the Chancellor and the parents all mentioned possible remedies, things that could have been handled better and measures to employ for the future, no one mentioned a solution that I have advocated for more than three years. Metal detectors should be installed in all public high schools. Right now, there are only 81 metal detectors in over 1,000 school buildings. And, the Mayor, the Chancellor and the Civil Liberties Union have been chief proponents of lessening the use of metal detectors based on the theory that they create a punitive environment that impedes learning. The Administration established an educational task force which recommended that “Department of Education personnel shall not request the intervention of School Safety personnel when responding to the following normative child and adolescent behaviors, absent a real and immediate threat of serious injury to a member of the school community,” listing “Disorderly con-

A message from the President

OK, No Metal Detectors in Public Schools.

So, what's YOUR suggestion Mr. Mayor?

duct... use of racial or other slurs... and bullying.”

The vast majority of our children are well aware of the dangerous world in which we live...they go to baseball games and concerts and are not stigmatized by security precautions. Rather, they accept them as part of life today. We also know that the numbers of weapons that enter public schools is not accurately reported. The DOE, NYPD and State Department of Education can all engage in a battle of whose statistics are correct, but we remain steadfast in denouncing the new criteria under the de Blasio Administration for what constitutes a violation of acceptable school behavior. Many previous offenses are no longer categorized as a violation and hence, a student caught may not be a student reported. If there is no report, there is no crime and the numbers of crimes ostensibly go down. Recently, a student brought into school a Flint-lock gun and luckily, that school did have a metal detector and our School Safety Agents seized the weapon. The NYPD determined that it was only an imitation gun. The student was not charged with possessing a weapon and will not be added to the statistics of guns confiscated at public schools. This kind of misclassification adds to our doubts about the Mayor's assertion that violent crimes in schools are down—which he uses to argue for the removal of metal detectors. He had just been lucky, until that luck ran out with the fatal use of a weapon by a student.

School Safety Agents should not be handcuffed. They need realistic guidelines and equipment to protect students and staff. Instead of the increased use of “Warning Cards”, now being issued for possession of marijuana and the broad category of “Disorderly Conduct”, this “pilot project”, which expanded to being used in 71 High Schools, does not act as a disincentive to bad behavior. Rather, this virtually meaningless “punishment” serves to incentivize misconduct. Clearly, changing the definition of a crime doesn't make the crime go away.

I believe that this tragedy could have been avoided with metal detectors, and think that if parents and students of that Bronx school and schools throughout the City were asked, they would overwhelmingly agree. Guidance counselors, sensitivity training and smiling faces greeting students at the door are no substitute for detecting and keeping a potentially deadly weapon from getting into the school building. We agree that it is essential to address the root cause of why someone would want to bring a weapon into school, but we must first address how someone can get a weapon into that school in the first place. It's a fact that metal detectors save lives. But if the Mayor and the Chancellor are more concerned with hurt feelings and political optics, I challenge them to devise another solution that is realistic for the world we live in, not the world we want. The carnage must stop before the cures are found. Civil liberties are important, but saving children's lives must be our first priority. Just ask three grieving families. ■



**Now, put your new
books away, take out
your smartphones, open
the App in American
History and search for
“Labor Unions”**

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

On the Job

Local 237 is the largest Teamsters Local in the United States and Canada. Our members are dedicated municipal workers performing tough jobs in a wide range of titles for nearly every government agency in New York City and on Long Island. The quality of life for all of us is positively impacted by the hard work of 237 members. Meet some of those members:

NYCHA PLASTERER AND HELPER



Romelle Collins (right) a plasterer, and her helper, **Sherly Ford** work at the Van Dyke Houses.

SCHOOL SAFETY TRAINING



Gregory Floyd, President of Local 237, (center with the mic) addressed a training session at Queens South, telling School Safety Agents: "The work that you do is very important. We want to help you to be effective and to be safe."

WELCOME ABOARD!



The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, Evidence Unit, welcomed a new addition to the Department: **Cynthia Yoder**, Evidence and Property Control Specialist II.

Local 237
NEWSLINE

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Local 237 Newsline (USPS 700-000 ISSN 1083-3536) is published quarterly by Local 237, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, 216 West 14 Street, New York, NY 10011.

Periodical postage paid at New York, NY. Postmaster: Send address changes to Local 237 Newsline, 216 West 14th Street, New York, NY 10011.

Executive Board

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Edmund Kane Trustee	Curtis Scott Trustee	Jeanette Taveras Trustee	

Newsline and www.local237.org

Phyllis S. Shafran
Editor

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

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



YOUTH POLICE ACADEMY TRAINING



Queens South School Safety Agents, in conjunction with the NYPD, conducted a Youth Police Academy training session for youth interested in law enforcement careers.

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

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

In recognition of a Job Well Done

DERVILLE RECEIVES CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE

Dominque Derville, NYCHA Housing Assistant at the Customer Contact Center in Brooklyn was honored with the Mayoral Certificate Award in recognition of her exemplary service during NYCHA’s Customer Service Week. Local 237 President **Gregory Floyd** was on hand to congratulate Dominque and to also extend his appreciation to all NYCHA workers for their hard work. Floyd reiterated his message that was sent out to members by NYCHA to mark the week: “I want to thank you for your service. You make our City run.....To do your best job, you need to make sure that you take care of yourself.....Take a break-Stepping away from your work for a few minutes a day can help you recharge.”



(l-r) **Michael Kelly**, NYCHA General Manager; honoree, **Dominque Derville**; **Francisco Navarro**, Customer Service Policy Advisor, Mayor’s Office of Operations and **Gregory Floyd**, President of Teamsters Local 237.

QWL AWARDS

The New York City Labor Management Quality of Work Life Department (QWL) strives to achieve a productive and satisfying work environment for municipal employees by uniting forces of labor and management into one cooperative effort of combined resources aimed at one goal. A recognition ceremony was held to honor exemplary employees with many years of service and perfect attendance.



(l-r) **Charmaine Berry** worked for the City for 20 years; pictured with **Donald Arnold**, Director of Local 237’s Citywide Division; **Joan Charles**, a 20 year-City employee and **Randall Hooks**, who worked 37 years as a Water Use Inspector.

DCAS HONORS

Pasquale Caldarelli, Plasterer and Local 237 Grievance Rep, was presented with an “Award of Excellence” by DCAS which thanked him for “your exemplary performance in Facilities Management as you serve our great city, agency and the public.”



Pasquale Caldarelli (left) with **Randi Klein**, Deputy Director, Local 237’s Citywide Division.

ONE SAVVY LADY

Patricia Stryker (pictured second from the right), Local 237’s Recording Secretary on the Executive Board and Director of Legislation and Political Action was recently honored by Savvy Ladies, a non-profit organization that provides financial planning education. The goal of this group is to help empower women so that they can have a life of economic self-sufficiency and security.



Among her friends and colleagues there to cheer her on, were members of Local 237 including **Nancy True**, Director of the Retiree Division; **Gregory Floyd**, President and **Bertha Aiken**, Director of Training and Education.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

In recognition of a Job Well Done

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

NYC LIFESAVER AWARDS

Kingsborough Community College Officers who saved lives by administering Naxolone to reverse an opioid overdose, were honored at an award ceremony held at the NYC Department of Health.



Honorees **Sgt. Szczesny** (left) and **Sgt. Lopez** with **Chief Capozzi**



CPO Rodriquez

RAUL FRANTAUZZI, HALL OF FAMER



Raul Frantauzzi (center, blue shirt and tie), a School Safety Agent for 20 years, was inducted into the Handball Hall of Fame at a ceremony held at Terrace in the Park in Queens. Raul has earned more than 40 titles in the sport during the 30 years that he has played. 1,000 competitors were vying to be included in the first-time Handball Hall of Fame, and only 10 were selected. Raul was one of them. Raul is excited with the news that Coca Cola and Nike have shown interest in making handball an Olympic sport.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Members Promoted, Congratulations

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

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER PROMOTES THREE



(l-r) **EPCS II Steven Moyano**, **EPCS II Chris Mantuano** and **EPCS II Christopher Burnet** have all been promoted to Evidence and Property Specialists II.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

All in the Family

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



In 2007, they were prom dates. In 2017, they are husband and wife. School Safety Agent **Wayne Godson Gabeil** married his High School sweetheart, **Egypt**. They are pictured on the left at their prom in Brooklyn High School of the Arts and on the right, at their wedding celebration in the Chateau Briand on Long island.

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

IN THE PINK

In support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, members of the NYC Health + Hospitals/Metropolitan Hospital Police, 9th Division, wore polo pink shirts every Wednesday & Friday throughout October.



(l-r) Sergeant B. Montalvo, Officer Z. Bilal, Officer N. Rivera, Officer C. Lee, Detective t. King and Lieutenant V. Diaz; Back row: Officer A. Diaz, Officer P. Medrano, Director Theodore Stellas, Lieutenant A. Melendez, Officer L. Desantis and Assist. Director K. Leon.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Above and Beyond

A SPECIAL THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving is a joyful time traditionally celebrated with lots of food and family. But that is not the case for everyone. Knowing this, **SSA 1 Shawnta Alston**, who works at Brandeis High School, helped to bring some holiday cheer to less fortunate families.



(l-r) SSA 1 Shawnta Alston, pictured in the middle, with students from the Brandeis Campus Global Learning Collaborative School, 12th Graders Hennesy Gonzalez (left) and Juel Cuevas, who received Community Service Awards from the Brooklyn Masonic Temple for their assistance in the event.



Enjoying the day, children at play with their artwork on display.

Condolences

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



To **William Martinez**, Supervisor of Caretakers at South Beach Houses on Staten Island, on the death of his father, retiree, **Rafael Martinez**, a Local 237 member for 26 years. Before retiring to Puerto Rico, Rafael was a NYCHA Supervisor of Caretakers at Glenwood Houses. His son notes that Rafael's death was related to the devastation the Island sustained due to Hurricane Maria.



To the family of **Terrance 'Poo' Harden**, a well-liked DHS officer for 18 years.



To the family and colleagues of **Takia Courtney Mack**, a dedicated and cherished School Safety Agent.



To the family of **Elsa Machuca-Alvarez**, a devoted School Safety Agent.



To the family of **Donovan W. Pinckney**, a hard working School Safety Agent for 25 years.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Added to the Roster of Retirees

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



Blanca Cruz, a District Security Guard working for the DOE for 28 years has retired. Although she says she will miss working with children, Blanca is looking forward to spending more time with her family. She received a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of Local 237 presented by **Jeanette Taveras**, a Business Agent in the Law Enforcement Division and a Board Trustee (left) and **Andre Green**, Assistant Director of the Law Enforcement Division.



Frank Jordan, a cook at Kings County Hospital retired with plans to "vacation often and go fishing." He was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of Local 237 presented by **Jeanette Taveras**, a Business Agent in the Law Enforcement Division and a Board Trustee (left) and **Dwayne Montgomery**, Director of Integrity.



Carlos Dias, a maintenance worker with the NYPD for 37 years has retired. In appreciation of his years of dedicated service, Carlos was presented with a plaque on behalf of Local 237 by Shop Steward, **Ropes Phillips** (left) and **Randy Klein**, Deputy Director of the Citywide Division.



Mildred Powell, Shop Steward, has retired after 25 years of service at Elmhurst Hospital. She looks forward to traveling and spending time with her family. On behalf Local 237, Citywide Business Agent **George Wade** presented her with a Certificate of Appreciation.

237 BOARD VP HENDERSHOT RETIRES



At a surprise party held in his honor, Hendershot said: "I never thought it would be so difficult to find the words to say good bye. I have been a Teamster for 46 years; 36 of those years working for Teamsters Local 237 and having various union positions on Long Island, and 18 years as the Vice President on the Executive Board. This wasn't just a job to me."



African American Day Parade

Celebrating Cultural and Diversity



In his Inaugural Address in January of 1981, Mayor John Lindsay of the City of New York and first African American Mayor said: "I see New York as a gorgeous mosaic of people of every origin and sexual orientation." In 1977, Mayor Mario Cuomo called the city a "magnificent mosaic." Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan famously called New York a "melting pot," and Jesse Jackson, over the years, has used a patchwork quilt to describe the American people. President Ronald Reagan actually first described the city as a mosaic. President Jimmy Carter, in 1977, said that he never liked the word "melting pot" either. "I never liked 'melting pot' he said. "I like the word 'mosaic' together, but in keeping our cultures." The mosaic of cultures everywhere is blended into one big stew. The mosaic is an asset that the multiplicity of cultures brings to the "salad bowl" model where our cultures are not totally absorbed and obscured, but are all part of the whole.

Local 237 recognizes that diversity is a strength. The richness of our cultural differences, which is the heart of the African American Parade, both in the parade and in the celebration gave members a chance to share their achievements of Latinos, in addition to honoring the achievements of a Congressman and a renowned band leader. In the African American Parade, 237 members marched to celebrate the achievements of Blacks in our country.

f 1990, David Dinkins, the 106th Mayor
n American to assume that high office,
ic of race and religious faith, of national
when he ran for mayor of New York City,
icent mosaic.” In the 1960s, New York
usly wrote about our nation as “a great
years, has used the down-home image of
an people. But, Mayor Dinkins, who ac-
c when he ran for Manhattan borough
d the idea of denying cultural differences
said. “Our strength is not in melting to-
idea that, in New York, everybody from
may seem charming but misses the great
ought by people from across the globe
r ethnic, racial and religious differences
ut extolled and applauded.



Honoree Erick R. Martinez with Gregory Floyd



Honoree Congressman Adriano Espaillat (center) with Gregory Floyd and Ruben Torres



Honoree Joann C. Pertuz with Gregory Floyd.



Honoree Marta Torres with Gregory Floyd.

Honoree Sandy Sonera with Gregory Floyd



Honoree Brian P. Caballero with Gregory Floyd.



Long Island honorees Kenia Ramirez and Sonia Ordonez with Benny Carenza,



Jessica Floyd, Gisela Reyes and Ana Reyes



Honoree Isamily Montas with Gregory Floyd.



"King" Brian Caballero and "Queen" Patricia Marasco of the Latino Heritage Celebration were crowned by Nancy True and Jeanette Taveras.



LONG ISLAND REPORT



Brentwood custodians (l-r) **John** and **Kevin** with **Benny Carenza**.



Brentwood's Food Service members in Pine Park elementary school with **Benny Carenza**.



North Babylon School members (l-r) **Chris**, **Anthony**, **Louie** and **Keith**.



Brentwood's Food service members from North Middle school with **Benny Carenza**.



North Babylon negotiating team meeting with **Benny Carenza** on a Saturday to go through the contract proposals for our upcoming contract negotiations.



Kenny and **Ryan** who work for Brentwood schools in the Warehouse with **Benny Carenza**.



Dave Beharry who is a Cleaner for Lawrence School District. He was laid off by the district and we took a case and won his reinstatement to his Full Time position. Pictured with **Benny Carenza**.



Head Custodian for the Brentwood School District **Alan Dimperio** with **Benny Carenza**.



Brentwood School District Security Guard **Carl** with **Benny Carenza**.



Bob Savelli who retired from OTB as a Cashier after 28 years. **Cathy Byrnes** (l) who is a cashier and Shop Steward of the phone room and our **Cathy Rice** (r).



Town of Babylon member **John Price** who retired after 30 years on the job.



Brentwood members fighting for a fair contract. We just ratified a fair contract with raises every year, no increase in health costs and it was voted in overwhelmingly! Congrats to the members for fighting hard and staying the course.

THANK YOU RICHIE!



(l-r) Roger Clayman, Executive Director of the Long Island Federation of Labor; Nick Lamorte, CSEA Long Island Region President, Rich Hendershot and John Durso, President of Local 338 Food Workers Union and President of the Long Island Federation of Labor.



Gregory Floyd and Richard Hendershot with Long Island members and retirees.



Kensington Arandale cheers her grandpa on.



Mrs. C. and Mrs. H.

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.



Gregory Floyd, Benny Carenza, Chris Olsen and Richard Hendershot



Benny Carenza, Gregory Floyd, Mike Dowsett and Richard Hendershot



Benny Carenza, Gregory Floyd, Dimetra Tiejen and Richard Hendershot



Benny Carenza, Gregory Floyd, Peggy Conroy and Richard Hendershot



Richard Hendershot, Gregory Floyd, Bob Verch and Benny Carenza



Benny Carenza, Gregory Floyd, Chris LoSardo and Richard Hendershot

WHAT'S NEW ON LI?

JUSTICE SERVED: PRIVATIZATION REVERSED AT LAWRENCE SCHOOLS

Several years ago, the Lawrence School District fired Local 237-represented Security Aides and subcontracted their jobs to a private non-union company. The District's actions were unilateral and illegal. Local 237 vowed to get the jobs back and did. When the layoff was announced, Local 237 lawyers immediately filed a charge with the New York State Public Employment Relations Board (PERB), lost the case, but did not give up. Local 237 Long Island Division Director Ben Carenza said, "The PERB decision was wrong and we filed an appeal. I'm happy to report that we won our appeal. Not only will our members get their jobs back, the District must pay them for their lost wages and benefits with interest." Local 237 President Gregory Floyd noted: "Privatizing public school services is bad for students and workers. Our members are well-trained in security and a part of the school community. They deserve decent pay and benefits for the caring, professional service they provide students. Justice has been served."

CONTRACTS RATIFIED

Local 237 members working at the Islip Housing Authority and Syosset Library have both voted to accept new contracts. The Syosset library vote was 100%. Each contract included raises with no givebacks. The Islip Housing Authority Negotiation Committee won a five-year contract with annual raises. All benefits were maintained at no additional cost to members. Likewise, Syosset Library workers voted for yearly raises and no increases in health benefit rates in their 3-year agreement. Local 237 President Floyd said, "This is a tough time for American workers, but our Long Island members have proven that when we are unified, we win fair contracts."

FUTURE LOOKING BRIGHT FOR GAMING INDUSTRY ON LI

A few years ago, the future for workers in Long Island's gambling industry did not look so bright. When Suffolk OTB filed for bankruptcy, Local 237 mobilized to save the OTB and the jobs that it provides. Today, there are 140 workers at Jake's 58 Casino in Islandia involved in all aspects of the casino's operations and include members of the Count/Drop team, Main Bankers, Cage Cashiers, Floor Attendants, Guest Services and Player Rewards, Security Officers, Security Officer EMTs, EVS Attendant Cleaners and EVS Attendant Heavy Cleaners. They began working under their first Local 237 contract earlier this year and are enjoying fair wages and health benefits for full-time workers. Jake's workers joined more than 100 Suffolk OTB workers who are long-time members of Local 237's Long Island Division. OTB members also recently ratified a contract that provides raises and retro pay. The union, working at the state and local levels, helped to rescue OTB and open Suffolk County's first video slot casino. Local 237 President Floyd explained: "Our union used all of our resources and political clout to save and create good Long Island jobs. Our OTB members have also made sacrifices. I'm pleased that we were able to negotiate a good contract that makes OTB workers whole and allows them to support their families. And to welcome our newest members at Jake's Casino, I say: 'Welcome into the Local 237 family!'"

TALKS CONTINUE IN NORTH BABYLON

North Babylon School District building and grounds workers, along with school bus drivers, are preparing now for their next contract. Local 237 Long Island Division Director Ben Carenza explained, "We've had difficult negotiations at North Babylon in the past, so we aren't taking anything for granted. Talks continue with our committee working hard to get members the contract they desire and deserve."

POLITICAL AND LABOR NEWS

We Weren't Conned



Radio show "Reaching Out With Gregory Floyd" featured a conversation with Mario Cilentio, President of the NYS AFL-CIO and Vincent Alvarez, President of the NYC Central Labor Council on the importance of voting "NO" to Con Con.

Over two million New Yorkers can't be wrong; they saw Con Con as a con. The Constitutional Convention, Proposition #1 on the recent election ballot, was resoundingly rejected by a margin of 5 to 1, with 83% voting against it. Had the question—which comes up every 20 years—been approved, there would have been a multi-year, multi-million dollar process put in place to convene a convention of delegates from throughout New York State to review and reshape New York's constitution.

Supporters argued that it was way back in 1938 when a major re-write of the 60,000 word document took place and that it is in dire need of an update today. Opponents argued that there is a legislative process that provides for amendments and revisions to the constitution, which has been used successfully 222 times since the original constitution was enacted in 1777. The opposition, which brought together diverse groups rarely joined for a single cause—from environmentalists, to educators, to planned parenthood and gun lobbyists—viewed a constitutional convention as merely a ploy by well-heeled special interests and political insiders to put their interests first.

Labor took a leadership role in defeating the proposition. Unions throughout the state pooled more than three million dollars to get the message across: "A wholesale revision of New York's constitution would be disastrous for union households. Vote No." And we did. As **Gregory Floyd**, President of Teamsters Local 237—the largest public employees Local in the IBT—explained to his members at a Shop Stewards meeting he held prior to the vote: *"The idea of a Constitutional Convention may sound innocent enough, but it's not. For municipal employees in particular, it could be deadly. Our pensions and other benefits are guaranteed in the current state constitution. A Convention would give the union-bashers and union-busters what they want: The chance to do us in. Especially in the political climate we live in—with 28 Right-to-Work states already in place, it is imperative that we in New York State, with the highest number of union members, and with 70% of them public sector workers, retain our position as the number one state to safeguard its workers."*

Part of the strategy that led to this huge victory was to appeal to all voters—Democrats and Republicans, union members and non-union workers—convincing them that a Constitutional Convention was a misguided waste of time and money that could bring unintended results. And it worked. ■



Gregory Floyd talks to Shop Stewards on why a "NO" vote on the Constitutional Convention is essential to union workers, especially public sector employees.

Workers' Rights are Civil Rights

Teamsters Local 237 President **Gregory Floyd**, and **Terrence Melvin**, President, International Coalition of Black Trade Unionists and Secretary-Treasurer of the NYS AFL-CIO, recently participated in the Summit for Civil Rights held at the University of Minnesota/Mondale School of Law. The goal of the two-day conference was to formulate strategy to rekindle the historic civil rights movement of the 1960's and set priorities to continue the struggle by bringing together civil rights advocates, elected officials, faith-based groups and labor. The panel discussion of Floyd and Melvin focused on how workers' rights and civil rights are intertwined and the significant role labor has played—and must continue to play—in the fight to end economic disparity.

In his remarks, Floyd, representing the largest public employees union in the IBT, noted that New York State has the highest number of union workers in the nation—nearly 25%—with public sector workers making up the greatest amount of union workers, and African American municipal workers representing the largest group of those union workers. He asked the audience to keep in mind that "workers' rights and civil rights have an historic, inseparable bond, and that begs the question: Who has the most to lose from the actions of today's union-bashers? The answer is easy to learn. One needs only to look at the recent referendum in New York for a Constitutional Convention. It was successfully defeated through a collaboration of groups having diverse interests, and with labor unions taking a leadership role—knowing that a win would have been disastrous, especially for public sector workers, whose pensions and other benefits are guaranteed in the Constitution. The muscle and determination that labor showed for this issue—and the support it garnered not only within the labor movement, but among other fair-minded interest groups—must continue to help defeat the Janus Case as well. These union-busting efforts should be viewed as what they truly are: Just other forms of denying civil rights."

Among the other highlights of the Summit were speeches by former Vice President Walter Mondale; Congress members James Clyburn and Keith Ellison; Derrick Johnson, the President and CEO of the NAACP and Randi Weingarten, President of the American Federation of Teachers. ■



Gregory Floyd at the podium



Gregory Floyd with former Vice President Walter Mondale



Gregory Floyd with Derrick Johnson, the President and CEO of the NAACP

Local 237 Members Support Local 3



Local 237 Retirees with Nancy B. True, Director of the Retiree Division (center) and Hector Cotto, Deputy Directory (right) at the rally to support Local 3.

IBEW Local 3 has been on strike against the corporate giant Charter/Spectrum for more than 8 months. Without a contract since 2013, negotiations broke down when, as Chris Erikson, Local 3 Business Manager told thousands of union supporters at an October rally, "They basically said that until we agree that they won't have to contribute to our pension and health plan, they won't talk about anything else." AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka joined New York State Governor Cuomo and NYS AFL-CIO President, Mario Cilento for a march across the Brooklyn Bridge with 1800 Local 3 strikers, followed by a rally at Foley Square where they were met by other union members, Mayor deBlasio and several elected officials. In a show of solidarity, active members of Local 237 and retirees joined the strikers at this rally as well as another rally that took place at Times Square in November. As Local 237 President Gregory Floyd said: *"We're here to support our brothers and sisters fighting against corporate greed. Spectrum's CEO is among the highest paid in the nation. At a salary of \$98 million, perhaps it's hard to understand how devastating a doctor's bill or hospital stay could be to a working family."*



Local 237 members participated in the rallies to show their solidarity with striking Local 3 brothers and sisters

Teamster Women Urged to Spur Change

San Antonio, Texas was the host city for this year's Teamster Women's Conference. More than 1,000 women gathered from throughout North America for the opportunity to exchange ideas and information through a wide variety of educational panels and social activities. The conference theme was: "Teamster Women Spur Change." Jim Hoffa, Teamster General President told the women in his opening remarks: *"We have major fights ahead of us to protect everything we stand for, and we have full confidence in the strong Teamster sisters of our union. Together, we will spur change."*



Enjoying the local ambience, Cathy Rice, LI Business Agent, OTB and Mideris Martinez, Assistant Manager, Member Services.

What To Know Before Applying for a Mortgage

By Mary E. Sheridan, Esq.

Director Local 237-Legal Services Plan

Your Legal Services Plan represents hundreds of members who are buying homes. An attorney is provided at absolutely no cost to you. While saving yourself legal fees, you must still plan on paying mortgage and title fees when buying a home. Besides providing free representation, Local 237 has worked hard to find cost-saving mortgage options for members. Local 237 has forged relationships with mortgage lenders that result in lower closing costs for you. One such lender is Freedom Mortgage,

a company that offers low closing costs to our members. A Local 237 member, **Willie Gantt**, recently called us about his experience with Freedom Mortgage. In the telephone conversation, Mr. Gantt, a maintenance worker sang the praises of Freedom Mortgage. He was super impressed with the service he received and the amount of money Freedom Mortgage was able to save him in his refinance.

It isn't easy to qualify for a mortgage these days. Federal regulations are much stricter than they were pre-2008. There are things to avoid and things you should do before applying for a mortgage. Do not take out new loans or spend a lot on your credit cards right before applying for a mortgage or while your application is pending. When a lender considers a mortgage application

they look to your debt-to-income ratio (DTI). The higher your debt load, the less likely your mortgage will be approved. Just as important is timely payment of your existing credit cards and loans. Payment history is a huge component of your overall credit score. You want a high credit score and missing a payment or paying late could drop your score by 50 points or more.

Do not spend your savings on vacations, new furniture or other

big ticket items. If paid for with credit cards or a loan, your debt-to-income ratio will go up. That is not a good thing. Remember those mortgage and title charges I mentioned, those are your closing costs. And there will be closing costs. A good rule of thumb is to estimate needing at

least 5% of your total mortgage amount saved for closing costs. In addition, unless you are applying for a VA loan, you will need a minimum of 3.5% of the purchase price for a down payment. Banks and mortgage lenders usually want to see a certain amount of cash reserves also.

Finally, lenders will want to see steady employment, often for at least 2 years on a job. Changing jobs right before applying for a mortgage or during the process is not a good idea.

For questions, call the Legal Services Plan at (212) 924-1220.



Local 237 Notes

As of October 10, 2017 **Kenneth Franco** will be appointed the new Business Agent for the Housing Division. His salary will be \$385.00 per week (\$20,020.00 per year) with a monthly car allowance of \$860.00 per month (\$10,320.00 per year). All his welfare and medical benefits will be provided by the city.

As of October 10, 2017 **Teresa Valentina** will be appointed the new Business Agent for the Housing Division. His salary will be \$385.00 per week (\$20,020.00 per year) with a monthly car allowance of \$860.00 per month (\$10,320.00 per year). All his welfare and medical benefits will be provided by the city.

As of October 2, 2017 **Derek Short** will be appointed the new Business Agent for the Law Enforcement Division. His salary will be \$1,479.00 per week (\$76,908.00 per year) with a monthly car allowance of \$860.00 per month (\$10,320.00 per year). All his welfare and medical benefits will start immediately.

We are very proud of the accomplishments of our members striving to achieve new educational and professional heights. Meet the new graduates:

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Congratulations to the Graduates



On October 11, the Department of Homeless Services conducted a graduation ceremony. Local 237 President, **Gregory Floyd** was on hand to wish the new officers well (pictured with graduates on the left). He also spent some time talking with the family of one graduate, **Alenia Sumpter**, second from the right, who with her mother, sisters and daughter, represented three generations in law enforcement — and one generation in the making.



Standing with President Floyd are left to right: **PO Shakera President** (daughter); **Rebecca President** (grandma); **Alenia Sumpter** (new graduate and daughter); **Sherrie President** (mom) and **Briyah-Jo Miller** (great-granddaughter)



On November 15, the Department of Homeless Services graduated 20 trainees who successfully completed the rigorous training program. Local 237 President, **Gregory Floyd** (left) and **Charlie Cotto** (right) congratulated the incoming class and wish them well.

On November 2, the NYPD held a graduation of School Safety Agents. **Derek Jackson**, Director of Law Enforcement attended the event. He is pictured (left) with the **Cataldo family** who was there to cheer on their daughter, **Dina**, (second from the right) and welcome her to the “family business”. Her proud mother **Patricia** has been a School Safety Agent for several years.



Resumen En Español

2017 Cierre de Fin de Año

Cómo los historiadores evaluarán 2017 aún no se ha determinado. En cierto modo, fue un año pre-ocupante en el que el terrorismo golpeó una vez más a nuestra ciudad, y los furiosos huracanes causaron estragos y dolores de corazón a tantos en nuestra nación. Pero el Local 237 tuvo un año que vio logros, resoluciones y una victoria en la dura lucha de la Convención Constituyente del Estado de Nueva York. La edición de invierno de

Newsline se centrará en algunos de los aspectos más destacados de 2017, con un vistazo a nuestro "Lo Mejor de lo Mejor" También consideraremos lo que esta por venir en 2018, teniendo en cuenta las palabras de Oprah Winfrey: "Saludos al nuevo año y otra oportunidad para que lo hagamos bien:"

¿Cómo defines la palabra "Héroe"?



School Safety homenajeados con Gregory Floyd, Presidente de Local 237 a la izquierda, Derek Jackson, Director de la División de Aplicación de la Ley Local 237 a la derecha y miembros de la División de Seguridad Escolar / NYPD, DOE, UFT y Stuyvesant High School.

Esa es una pregunta, planteó Gregory Floyd, presidente de Teamsters Local 237, en una reunión reciente. Pero sabía que la respuesta estaba justo en frente de él. 20 agentes de seguridad escolar de Stuyvesant High School fueron honrados por su heroísmo durante el ataque terrorista del 31 de octubre que dejó 8 muertos y muchos heridos. El peor ataque en la ciudad de Nueva York desde el 11 de septiembre se encontró con un sinnúmero de socorristas que ayudaron a los heridos y a los muertos. Los primeros en la escena fueron los agentes de seguridad escolar que llamaron al NYPD y al EMS. Debido a las acciones rápidas de los Agentes, un oficial de policía disparó al perpetrador, terminando su tiroteo, y los equipos médicos atendieron a la víctima. Entre los dignatarios presentes estaban: el presidente del condado, **Gale Brewer**; Brian Conroy, Jefe Asistente de la División de Seguridad Escolar / NYPD; **Ramón García**, Comisionado Asistente, División de Seguridad Escolar / NYPD; **Eric Contreras**, Director, Stuyvesant High School; **Mark Rampersant**, Director Ejecutivo Adjunto de Seguridad y Salud para el DOE; **Jeffrey Povalitis**, Director de Seguridad para la UFT y **Joan Jaffe**, Jefe de la División de Seguridad Escolar / NYPD. El presidente Floyd ayudó a distribuir el "Premio al excelente desempeño del deber" a cada uno de los agentes y les dijo: "Escuchamos que la palabra héroe se usa mucho. Pero la definición puede variar. La mayoría de los diccionarios describen a un héroe como alguien que pone a otros antes de él o ella. Alguien que hace las cosas porque son lo correcto. Un héroe es alguien que hace el bien solo por el bien ... alguien que actúa con sentido de responsabilidad y honor. El 31 de octubre, la mayoría de los Agentes de Seguridad Escolar probablemente pensaban que la peor parte del día sería lidiar con "trick-or-treaters." Algunos probablemente estaban preocupados si llegaban a casa a tiempo para llevar a sus propios hijos a sus barrios. Entonces, todo cambió. Ellos se lanzaron a la acción. Reemplazaron la calamidad con la calma. Combi-

naron la autoridad del cumplimiento de la ley con la comodidad de un padre amoroso. Eran profesionales pero compasivos. Su entrenamiento y sus instintos naturales comenzaron. Ellos ayudaron a salvar vidas en ese día. El trabajo de los agentes de seguridad escolar nunca es fácil en cualquier día, pero ese día fue como ningún otro. Ellos fueron héroes."

Los siguientes Miembros del Servicio del Comando Sur de Manhattan fueron asignados o respondieron al ataque terrorista el Martes, 31 de Octubre de 2017.

SSA III Tressa Roberts-Robinson, Task Force
SSA I Cindy Fernandez, Task Force
SSA I Samantha Bannister, Task Force
SSA I Kesha Ellis, Task Force
SSA I April Ruiz, Task Force
SSA I Yvedcy DeJesus, Task Force
SSA I Semantha Brown, Task Force
SSA I Saquan Fields, Task Force
SSA I Ebony Posey, Task Force
SSA I Omar Ruiz, Task Force
SSA I Benjamin Shipman, Task Force
SSA I Marc Worrell, Task Force
SSA I Calvin Crooke, Task Force
SSA I Yesennia Franklin, Stuyvesant H.S.
SSA I Nicole Marcano-Whittle, Stuyvesant H.S.
SSA I Barbara Taylor, Stuyvesant H.S.
SSA I Tamara Smith, Stuyvesant H.S.
SSA I Chavaugn Moore, PS 150
SSA I Diana Ceneno, PS 234/Annex
SSA I Frances Navarro, PS 234/Annex
SSA I Stephanie Somerville, PS / IS 89
SSA I Antoinette Dyall, PS 276
SSA I Jalissa Sheppard, PS 276



El presidente del condado Gale Brewer se dirige a la audiencia.



Los galardonados con los Agentes son, de izquierda a derecha, Mark Rampersant del DOE, Gregory Floyd, el jefe Brian Conroy y el comisionado Ramón García.



El Jefe Joan Jaffe recibe un premio de Derek Jackson, Director de la División de Aplicación de la Ley del Local 237 y Jeanette Taveras, Fiduciaria del Local 237 y Agente Comercial.

Una Temporada Y Una Razón Para Dar Gracias

Por Gregory Floyd

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

Es tradicional que, al final del año, reflexionemos sobre el año transcurrido y empecemos a pensar en el año que viene. Para algunos, la conclusión es como una canción de Sinatra o dos: "Sí, fue un año muy bueno" o "Tengo un arrepentimiento o dos, pero lo hice a mi manera". Otra parte de las tradiciones de fin de año es que hacemos Las resoluciones de Año Nuevo, incluidas las habituales: "Seguiré una dieta estricta" o "Dejaré de fumar" o "Tendré más paciencia con mi cónyuge". Parte de esta tradición es la posibilidad de que la resolución no durará más allá de febrero.

Cuando pienso en 2017, tengo sentimientos agriados. Nuestra unión ha tenido varios momentos muy orgullosos durante el año, pero desafortunadamente fueron necesarios por problemas serios. El 31 de octubre, cuando la ciudad de Nueva York sufrió el peor atentado terrorista desde el 9-11, fueron nuestros Agentes de Seguridad Escolar los primeros en la escena y actuaron con calma y compasión. Ellos ayudaron a salvar vidas. Tienen un trabajo duro todos los días, protegiendo a casi un millón de estudiantes de escuelas públicas, incluidos muchos de sus hijos y nietos, pero ese día, se encontraban entre los héroes de la ciudad. Luego, el 7 de noviembre, día de las elecciones, para nosotros, probablemente el tema más importante en la boleta fue la Proposición 1, para que los votantes decidan si tienen o no una convención constitucional. Los que se unen a la Unión y los poderosos corredores del poder acudieron para tratar de convencer a los votantes de Nueva York de que la única forma de mejorar el gobierno del Estado era hacer cambios generales a la Constitución. Especialmente como empleados públicos, su pensión trabajó mucho y estuvo en peligro. Pero, ¡nos juntamos también! Nuestros miembros y jubilados salen a la calle. Salieron la palabra. Armado con información y los mejores métodos de persuasión, la Proposición 1 fue derrotada por un enorme 83% y el movimiento obrero demostró que todavía es una fuerza en este estado. Nuestros miembros y jubilados también se unieron a nuestros miembros activos en mítines para corregir otros errores: los miembros del Local 3 han estado trabajando sin contrato con Spectrum durante años y han estado en huelga durante 6 meses con el punto crucial para que cualquier negociación sea beneficiosa para la salud; El gobernador Cuomo y la presidenta de la Cámara, Nancy Pelosi, exhortaron a los neoyorquinos a "recuperar el Congreso" protestando contra las propuestas legislativas de la Administración que ponen en peligro la calidad de vida de todos los neoyorquinos. Nuevamente, el Local 237 mostró su solidaridad y compromiso con la equidad, pero es lamentable que esas circunstancias lo requirieran.

En cuanto a 2018, estoy cautelosamente esperanzado. Ciertamente, los sindicatos en nuestro estado han flexionado sus músculos y han demostrado que somos una fuerza política, social y económica importante. A nivel nacional, sin embargo, con el caso de Janus frente a la Corte Suprema y algunas de las políticas propuestas por la Administración y personas designadas que ejercen presión sobre la membresía sindical y las familias trabajadoras, los desafíos son grandes. Pero lo que observé en este último año es que cuando los desafíos son grandes, mayor es el empuje que montamos para enfrentar esos desafíos. Lo hicimos en 2017. Lo haremos en 2018. ¡Felices fiestas! Ahora es la temporada y la razón para dar gracias. ■

Happy Holidays

*From Local 237's President, Gregory Floyd and the Executive Board,
all good wishes to you and your family for
health and happiness throughout the coming year.*

Pictured are the President of Teamsters Local 237, Gregory Floyd (center) with members of the Executive Board: Trustees, Curtis Scott and Jeanette Taveras; Vice President, Richard Hendershot; Secretary-Treasurer, Ruben Torres; Recording Secretary, Patricia Stryker and Trustee, Edmund Kane.

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