

Vol. 57, No. 1 Spring 2023

The Hope of Spring By Gregory Floyd

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

inger-songwriter Sheryl Crow memorably said about spring:

"No matter how chaotic it is, wildflowers will still spring up in the middle of nowhere."

In our battle with Covid-19, her comment is most fitting. And both Mother Nature and human nature seem to agree since buds appear on the branches, daylight lasts a little longer, and we push our snow boots and earmuffs to the back of the closet. As the Covid chaos seems to be subsiding, allowing restrictions to ease, the feeling is that spring has sprung, ushering in new beginnings, a sense of hope and inspiration.

So much has been written about the season. Toni Morrison, the recipient of the 1993 Nobel Prize in Literature, wrote:

"When spring comes to the City, people notice one another in the road; notice the strangers with whom they share aisles and tables... It's the time of year when the City urges contradiction most, encouraging you to buy street food when you have no appetite at all; giving you a taste for a single room occupied by you alone as well as a craving to share it with someone you passed in the street. Really there is no contradiction—rather it's a condition…"

The Ghanian founder of Smart Youth Volunteer Foundation, Lailah Gifty Akita calls spring:

"A season for the soul to regain its strength."

Even comedian Robin Williams had an opinion on spring, calling it,

"Nature's way of saying Let's Party."

It is no coincidence that Easter and Passover are spring holidays. The renewal of nature that comes with spring amplifies the promise of redemption embedded in the historical events being commemorated by both religions. Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus and his victory over death. Around the same time — and often overlapping — Jewish people celebrate Passover, the holiday commemorating the Hebrews' exodus from slavery in Egypt. In both holidays, festivals, nature, and history converge with a resounding message of hope. They are about delivery from a state of despair. Easter assures the individual that life is eternal. It offers a way out of a world beyond repair.

It celebrates a religion that provided comfort to many who had lost faith in the gods of Rome. It spreads the message that the death of one has the capacity to save many. Passover summons Jews collectively into the world to repair it. Among its messages is that a tyrant-like Pharaoh could be overthrown. A nation as

powerful as ancient Egypt could be defeated. Slaves could become free men. The oppressed could break the shackles of their captivity. Anything is possible, if only we dare to dream the impossible dream.

It was the biblical record of the exodus from Egypt that enabled the spirit of optimism to prevail for the followers of Martin Luther King Jr. in their quest for equal rights, because they were stirred by the vision of Moses leading his people to the Promised Land. In fact, the historic speech

that King delivered at the Mason Temple in Memphis, where he went on April 3, 1968 to support sanitation workers protesting their meager wages of \$1.65 an hour and deplorable working conditions, contained the prophetic line:

"I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the Promised Land."

He was assassinated the next day. It was ironic that many of King's supporters, aides and confidants had urged him against expanding their focus and leaving their comfort zone to take on new causes, such as the Poor People's Campaign which he was pushing. King would have none of it. Instead, he urged the sanitation workers to go on strike telling them:

"You have to escalate the struggle a bit."

And he countered the narrow focus of his allies with:

"We have moved into an era where we are called upon to raise certain basic questions about the whole society."

We hope that the history of our nation continues to reflect the rebirth that is springtime and acknowledges Dr. King's admonition that:

"change does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability but comes through continuous struggle."

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

HOUSING, 2nd Fl. 212-924-2000 Carl Giles, Housing Director

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

Debbie Coleman, Esq., Special Projects Director

LONG ISLAND

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, 8th Fl. 212-807-0555
Provides a variety of pre- and post-retirement services, including pension and health insurance counseling to members. (Pension counseling by appointment, Thursdays only). General retirement counseling and retirement plan-

LOCAL 237 DEPARTMENTS (Citywide and Housing)

Julie Kobi, Director

ning series during spring and fall.

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

MEMBERSHIP, 3rd Fl. 212-924-2000 Jean Stokes, Director Provides membership services and records, including address changes.

WELFARE FUND, 3rd Fl.

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

SOCIAL SERVICES, 3rd Fl.

646-638-8608
The Local 237 Social Services Department features free social work services that are available to all members. Social workers connect people to much needed assistance and resources. The union knows that its members have tough jobs and that when encountering tough personal challenges, learning about possible solutions to those challenges would make things that much easier. Contact us to learn about the many service we can provide.

Karla Steinberg, Membership Social Worker

LEGAL SERVICES, 4th Fl.

212-924-1220
Lawyers advise and represent members on covered personal legal problems, including domestic relations (family court proceedings, divorand separation), purchase and sale of a primary residence, wills, adoptions, credit and consumer problems, tenant rights and bankruptcies.

Mary Sheridan, Esq., Director

Kenneth Perry, Esq., Deputy Director

EXECUTIVE OFFICES, 5th Fl.

212-924-2000 Gregory Floyd, President Ruben Torres,

Vice President
Donald Arnold,
Secretary-Treasurer
Jeanette Taveras,
Recording Secretary

PERSONNEL, 5th Fl. 212-924-2000 Donald Arnold, Director Citiwide Division

and Chief Negotiator POLITICAL ACTION & LEGISLATION, 5th Fl.

646-638-8501
Local 237 protects members' rights by helping to sponsor legislation that is important to members, and by communicating with and supporting elected officials serving our best interests. Phyllis S. Shafran, Coordinator

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For grievances and job related problems, first contact your shop steward and/or grievance representative. If they can't resolve the issue, contact your business agent.
Mal Patterson, Director of Grievances and Hearings Diana Doss, Esq.

CIVIL SERVICE BAR ASSOC.

Grievance Coordinator

7th Fl., 212-675-0519
Saul Fishman, President
Aldona Vaiciunas,
Office Administrator and
Grievance Coordinator
Lee Gordon, Esq. (Retired)
Business Agent
CSBA Welfare Fund
Alicare 866-647-4617

COMMUNICATIONS, 5th Fl. 646-638-8501 Phyllis S. Shafran, Director & Editior Local 237 Newsline and Editor, Retiree News & Views

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

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Provides a variety of training and educational advancement opportunities for members.
Shanell Grayson, Director

USEFUL NUMBERS FOR PRE-RETIREES NYCERS (New York City Employees

Retirement System)

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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



A message from the President

Black History Month

It's not about validation, it's about involvement – it's about action.

By Gregory Floyd

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

ebruary was Black History Month. It's a time to celebrate and educate. It's a time to acknowledge the accomplishments, delight in a rich heritage and retell the history of a people too often forgotten, mistreated, and misunderstood. The originators of the idea for a Black history celebration were historians Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson, and his associate, Jesse E. Moorland. They created the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History in 1915, to promote black history and recognize achievements of African Americans. But they knew that was not enough. As Woodson argued, "If a race has no history, it has no worthwhile tradition; it is a negligible factor in the thoughts of the world and stands in danger of being exterminated." So, in 1926, they launched "Negro History Week", on the second week of February, because both President Abraham Lincoln's and abolitionist Frederick Douglass' birthdays coincided. But it took 50 years for the week to become a month when President Gerald Ford created Black History Month in 1976.

Today, Black History Month is not without controversy. To some critics, the argument goes that empowerment is not accomplished by one month of recognition. Some find it outdated, only symbolic, not necessary, and even separatist. For me, there is no controversy. Black History Month is not about validation, it's about involvement; it's about action. It's both a time of recognition and a call to duty. In labor unions, there's an important organizing prin-

ciple used to increase our numbers, demonstrate power and harvest our next generation of unionists—which is applicable here. Especially in order to grow a cadre of potential leaders who will take us to the next plateau, we must inspire and excite young people. We must also remember and thank those who have led the way with words and actions that changed history. Surely, there is tremendous wisdom in the words of Winston Churchill, who said: "Those that fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it."

The celebration of February as Black History Month should not be about avoiding mistakes, but instead, about creating more accomplishments, breaking more barriers, and earning the respect of all people. And, in keeping with the tradition of February as the month for acknowledging "The Best" in many categories—from the Super Bowl to the Grammy Awards—let's use the occasion to honor our own list of "Best In Class" and work to add more names to it. For sure, the list is already long with many giants and "firsts" past and present, including among them Dr. King, President Barack Obama, Justice of the Supreme Court Ketanji Brown Jackson, and Congressman and Chairman of the Democratic Caucus, Hakeem Jeffries. But Black History Month—which remembers the past, celebrates the present and looks to the future—should also be a time that helps to motivate, mentor, and nurture our next generation of champions in the struggle for social and labor justice.





(Back row, l-r) **Brian Denman**; **Shavelle Knox**, Business Agent; Patrick Credle, Caretaker J and NAACP Honoree; **Johnny Wright**, SOG and NAACP Honoree; **Ivan Patterson**, Caretaker J, Shop Steward and NAACP Honoree; **Carl Giles**, Director of the Housing Division; (Front row, l-r) **Pamela Boyland**, Superintendent and NAACP Honoree; **Lynn Spivey**, President of the NAACP (NYCHA chapter); and **Kadijah Wilson**, Executive Board Member of NAACP (NYCHA chapter).

Above and Beyond

Sneakers for Student



School Safety Agents and school staff at Westinghouse High School got together and found size 17 sneakers for this young man. He was so grateful. Way to go!

HEALTH + North Central Bronx Officer Alonzo

"Officer Alonzo jumped into action to save a patient's life by applying Naloxone and quickly requesting additional clinical staff for further assistance.

On Nov 7, 2022, Hospital Police Special Officer Jessie Alonzo saved a life at North Central Hospital.

Dousing Fire



SSA 3 Mohamed Lemnaizi, South Richmond High School NYPD officer grabs extinguisher and puts out brush fire behind the Staten Island school.

Responding to a Cry for Help

After parents of a sick child flagged down a Coney Island Hospital Police vehicle. PO Rodriguez placed everyone in the vehicle and drove them to the Emergency Room ambulance bay. PO Elgamal (see photo right) carried the pediatric patient into the emergency room.



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,

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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.





DCAS Officers, A Job Well Done

Here are some of the pictures and stories they want to share:

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.



(l-r) Sgt. Chanda Owens, PO Lamont Parker, Lt. Kevin McGovern, PO Shane Veira. Recently, two unidentified building tenants notified DCAS Police MOS that there were gun shots occurring on the corner of Arthur Avenue and East Tremont Avenue and there were injured persons on the ground. Lt. McGovern, Sgt. Owens, PO Veira and PO Parker responded to investigate whether any City employees and/or visitors were involved. Upon arrival at the scene, it was confirmed that shots were fired and civilians were injured. DCASPD MOS immediately began crowd control procedures as well as canvasing the immediate area for potential witnesses. They also provided responding NYPD Units with Crime Scene Tape and medical gloves to attend to the injured victims. DCASPD MOS assisted uniformed personnel with searching for and securing approximately eight spent rounds from the scene. The unknown perps fled. As a safety precaution, Lt. McGovern ordered the entrance doors and perimeter of the Arthur Avenue building temporarily secured. There were a total of four civilians struck by gunfire. Multiple EMS units arrived and transported the wounded civilians to local hospitals. DCAS Police MOS did an outstanding job and should be commended for a job well done.

Applying First Aide to Save Lives



Staten Island Command and Local 237 recognized L3 Mattera and L3 Meyer for their heroic first aid saving actions while at their school buildings. L3 Meyer for first aid rendered during a student being stabbed at IS 49 and L3 Matter for a student shot in Tottenville HS. (l-r) Chief Larin; Jeanette Taveras, Law Enforcement Business Agent and Local 237 Recording Secretary; CO Sherrod; Level III Matera and Level III Meyer.

Recruiting is Essential



Louis Sanchez, CSA and Grievance Representative successfully recruiting for CUNY Peace Officers at Washington Irving High School.

NYCHA Workers

NYCHA SAFETY CONGRESS – LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

Our NYCHA members throughout the city play a major role in keeping NYCHA safe for their co-workers and the residents. They are educators, communicators, problem-solvers, mediators, information gatherers, safety promoters, and strong advocates for good working conditions. We salute the safety associates throughout the five boroughs, and we thank you for all your efforts to make our workplaces safer and healthier!













Congratulations to newly appointed Assistant Superintendent, Eduardo Maya of St. Mary's Houses for his dedication to Local 237 and its membership.



Property Manager Jaritza Vazquez of Red Hook East dedicates her time to the Mentor NYCHA Program, and loves being a Teamster.



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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:

Assistant Manager Latoya Shavers of Edenwald Houses is sharing her experience and education with others to ensure "each one teach one" methods continues in the Bronx.



Assistant Manager Toni Williams of Morris Houses is a proud Teamster.



Alina Kantor, Housing Assistant, Ocean Hill Houses.



Sabrina Taylor and Tracey Cheston, Safety Associates, Whitman Houses/ Stuyvesant HS.

Safety Associates



"Safety helps you live longer, so be safe!" **Wanda Moses**,

Wanda Moses, St. Nicholas Houses, Safety Associate.



"Safety is the priority for our coworkers and residences in NYCHA." Vijai Pariag and Brenda Pierre-Louis, Brownsville Houses Safety

Associates.

Citywide Division

Jacobi Hospital Stock Workers



(l-r) Raymond Lowe, Supervisor of Stock Workers; Curtis Scott, Citywide Business Agent; and Joshua Rios, Stock Worker.



(l-r) **George Wade,** Citywide Business Agent; **Raymond Lowe**, Supervisor of Stock Workers; and **Joshua Rios**, Stock Worker.

Coney Island Hospital Maintenance Workers



(l-r) Robert Freligh, Curtis Scott (BA), Frank Borriello and Chris Peterson.



(l-r) Diana Santiago, Shemet Thomas, George Wade (BA), Cynthia Ricks (lead Tech) and Murvuet Kanay.

FDNY and NYPD Stock Keepers



Mark Sipzner, NYPD Supervisor Stock/Shop Steward.



(l-r) **George Wade**, Citywide Business Agent; **Andre Kelly** and **Omar Pilarte**, FDNY Radio Repair/Supervisor Stockworkers.

Citywide Queens Hospital Radiology Techs



(l-r) Kaniz Fatima, Sandeep Kaur, Joan Morton-Elliott and Jeanise Chapman with George Wade.

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:

Thanking you for years of hard work, and wishing you a wonderful retirement.



17 years, takes the cake!



Donald Arnold, Bertha Aiken, GiGi Reyes, Jeanette Taveras



Bertha, who led the Education Department for Donald Arnold, Bertha Aiken, Katie Grate, Milagros Arias, Geraldine Carpentier and Noelia Quiñones.



Business Agent Derek Short: "We thank School Safety L3 Chantel Folk-Elliot for 28 years of service to the NYPD/SSD. Your hard work and dedication to the Grand Street Campus and Brooklyn North was extraordinary."



Housing Business Agent and Assistant to the President, Ken Roper with recent retirees (l-r) Mary Sims, Manager; Laura Wilson, Housing Assistant; Eugenia Mickens, Housing Assistant; Renee Spooner, Manager; and **Deborah Manigo**, Housing Assistant.



(l-r) Curtis Scott, Local 237 Executive Board Trustee and Citywide Business Agent; Co-Worker Curtis O'Neill; DACS Retiree Nicolaus Genetski and Donald **Arnold**, Local 237 Secretary Treasurer and Citywide Director.



Congratulations to School Safety Agent Level III Dorsey "Dorse the Force" Futrell on his retirement today. Thank you for your 26+ years of service to the young people of this City. You have impacted more lives than you will ever know. Godspeed to you!



Congratulations on your retirement to three cooks from Cook Chill Culinary Center, Kenneth Jones, Carlton Chamberlain and Favian Hamlette.



Manuel Ferreiras, Heating Plant Technician, retired March 1, 2023, after 15-1/2 years of service with NYCHA.



Law Emorcement business Agent and Local 237 Recording Secretary, Jeanette Taveras, congratulates longtime friend Evaristo Aldahondo who retired from the NYC Department of Education after 43 years of service. He has started as a Educational Facilities Officer took the test to become a Special Officer for the Department of Education. Thank you for your service and enjoy retirement.

Law Enforcement Division

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:



Derek Jackson, Director of Law Enforcement Division at Javits holiday party.



(l-r) Sgt. Vannata and PO Johnson at Coler Rehabilitation and Nursing Care Center.



Hospital Police Officer Gael Moleus was awarded the Diamond of the Month award for Integrity by the administration at Henry J. Carter Specialty & Nursing Facility. He received a gift card of appreciation for his outstanding service to the facility.



York College officers (l-r) PO Jones, CSA Cadogan, Sgt. Thompson & PO Russell helped maintain a safe college campus.



Mayor Adams tours exhibits at summit.

February School Violence Summit



Kangela Moore, Business Agent and Derek Jackson, Director of Law Enforcement visits Officers at Jacob Javits Convention Center to hear their concerns. (l-r) Officer Asencio, Officer Watson, Officer Spear, Officer Raymundo and Derek Jackson, Director of Law Enforcement.



Metropolitan Hospital Police was named Department of the Month for the January 2023.



(l-r) DHS Sgt. Patel Vrijeshkumar and DHS Officer Johan Cordero compete in the 30th Street chess tournament.



(l-r) HRA Special officers Karen Marshall, Assaberry Coleman and Ana Miranda.



It's all in a days work at

Coler Hospital to provide a safe environment. Lt.

Carter monitoring the

cameras.

Happy Birthday to PO Ventura at Lehman College, with her son Steven.



Public Safety Officers of the afternoon tour at York College, who keep students, staff and visitors safe. (l-r) Sgt. Thompson, PO Russell, CSA Wong, PO Jones, CSA Pratt, CSA Georges, CSA Dhanraj, and PO Tsai.

Law Enforcement Contract **Negotiations Meeting**

Law Enforcement members of DOH & MH gave input to the Law Enforcement Division as they listen intently regarding contract negotiations ideas via zoom.



Derek Jackson, Director of Law Enforcement Division; Jeanette Taveras, Executive Board Recording Secretary, Business Agent; Jean Arias, Law Enforcement Division Secretary and Kangela Moore, Business Agent (present but not pictured).

First Line Supervisors – School Safety Agents who instruct at the Police Academy. They train the incoming agents to be the best at protecting New York City's most precious commodities, our youth. (l-r) Level III Winter-Ewer, Level III Espejo, and Level III

Harlem Hospital Is Lauded by NYPD

Police Commissioner Keechant Sewell and the Police Foundation thanked all the employees at Harlem Hospital for their heroic effort to save PO Jason Rivera and PO Wilbert Mora. Unfortunately, these brave heroes died giving the ultimate sacrifice. They are gone but not forgotten in Harlem Hospital and in the hearts of many in New York and across the world.



(l-r) Dwayne Montgomery, Director of Integrity, Business Agent of Law Enforcement Division; Kevin Joseph, Director of Hospital Police; Malcolm Williams, along with upper echelon of her Shop Steward; and Edward A. cabinet. Caban, First Deputy Commissioner, NYPD.



Police Commissioner Keechant Sewell lauding Harlem Hospital

New York NASP Foundation Induction Ceremony

The New York National Association of Securities Professionals Foundation, Inc. held its 25th Annual Wall Street Hall of Fame, and recognized our very own Lawrence Bosley, Esq., Senior Counsel, for demonstrating a commitment to excellence and diversity throughout his career in the financial industry. He was inducted into the Wall Street Hall of Fame. Presenter, President Gregory Floyd congratulated and lauded Lawrence for his outstanding leadership and dedication to excellence. Congratulations for a job well done!



(l-r) **Derek Jackson**, Director of Law Enforcement Division; Kangela Moore, Business Agent; Diane Doss, Esq.; Martha Bodhnarain, Esq.; Lawrence Bosley, Esq.; Yvonne Swann (honoree's mother); President Gregory Floyd and Derek **Short**, Business Agent.



Hospital Captain Tiffany Supall, Harlem Hospital.

Law Enforcement Division

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Hospital Police Academy Celebrates Shield Day with Class of 2022-03





Derek Jackson, Director of Law Enforcemen, gives congratulatory speech.





(l-r) Derek Jackson, Director of Law Enforcement Division; Dwayne Montgomery, Director of Integrity; with with Hospital Police Officer Monique Motion and her uncle Warren Glover, Assistant Commissioner of Sheriff's Department.

HHC Graduation



SQUAD A OFFICERS Mohammad Ahmed Azher Ahmed Mohammad Alauddin Muhammad Ashraf Jordan Bellinger Jelisa Benjamin Masha Ceasar Emmanuel Castillo Mohammad Walid-Hasan Michael Clemente Wentworth Corbin Manny Cuevas Brittney Ellerby Samiah Escalera Mohamed Farahat Liliana Gonzalez Kevin Gonzalez Fabienne Gracia

Serigne Gueye **SOUAD B OFFICERS** Wildemir Guzman Guzman Kazi Haque Daphne Hunt Dondre Hutchinson Sojourner Jackson Branden Jones Cristian Lopez Maldonado Aman Maqsood

Brehshiek Marquez

Misha Matamoro

Richard Grangier

SQUAD B OFFICERS CONT. Ashley Mayes Romero Tiffany Mays Kassler Mejias-Santos Harry Montas Monique Moton Cameren Nazario Shamar Nelson Catulle Nicolas Samantha Oxford Branden Paradise

SOUAD C OFFICERS Kevin Peterson Rondain Primo

Jennifer Reves Aliya Rigg Marisol Ritchie Dasheim Ross Edgar Santos Xavier Sargent MD Sarker Anthony Shanker James Silencieux Tena Simpson Shaqwana Spivey Faith Stevens Paulette St. Jean Jasmine Tomlinson Nina Vanderhorst Martin Vega Lackaydea Williams Brian Young

DHS, HRA, ACS Special Officer Graduation



With the graduating class, on the left is **Derek** Jackson, Director of the Law Enforcement Division; and Charlie Cotto, Deputy Director of the Law Enforcement Division. On the right is Martha Bodhnarain, Esq., Senior Counsel; Frank Rella, Business Agent; and Lawrence Bosley, Esq., Senior Counsel.

GRADUATES Isaima Alcantara (DHS) Shanice Bland (DHS) Shanay Bradley (ACS) Reginald Brown (DHS) Tyshika Charles (DHS) Sean David (ACS) Angela Diniz (DHS) Andre Godfrey (ACS) Shaquana Haynes (DHS) Devon Jones (HRA) Tamika Jordan (DHS) Malewo Kinzonzi (HRA)

Tyreek Lewis (ACS) Capri McMiillon (DHS) Caleb Mentor (HRA) Lesean Moore (DHS) Taqiyya Pegues (ACS) Latoya Pouncey (DHS) Jeffrey Rivera (DHS) Monay Smith (DHS) Sharon Smith (HRA) Gerard Thomas (ACS) Michael Toriola (DHS) Joseph Tsang (DHS) Carlos Virola (DHS) Anjanell Langston-Knox (ACS) Malcom Wise (DHS)

Kingsborough Community **College Celebrates Public Safety**

Dr. Claudia Schrader, President of Kingsborough Community College recognized the Public Safety Officers during National Law Enforcement Appreciation Week. University Executive Director Andre Brown delivered an acclamatory speech to the officers.



President Schrader, University Executive Director Andre Brown, Chief Greene, with Public Safety Officers and members of the 61st Precinct.



President Gregory **Floyd** addressing the Officers at Kingsborough Community College.



Donald Arnold, Secretary-Treasurer (1); Eduardo Rios, Vice President of Kingsborough Community College; Dr. Claudia Schrader, President of Kingsborough Community College; Chief Kenneth Greene; Deputy Chief Richard Lazarini; Lt. Veronica Rodriguez; Lt. Rodriguez; Lt. Irene Szczesny; President Gregory Floyd (second from right); Kangela Moore, Business Agent (right); CSA Leon Hearde; CSA Ellis Atkins; CPO Vanessa Perez; CPO Kamol Abreu; CSA Edward Chambers; Nicole Donovan; Sgt. Eric Lui; CPL Navendra Ramasami; S/O Rommel Butcher; Sgt. Elaine Lopez; and SPC Delise Chung.

Promoted to Sergeant



On Dec 19, 2022 at Bronx DA Office Special Officer Katrina Wade was promoted to Sergeant. Pictured with Charlie Cotto, Deputy Director, Law Enforcement /Citywide Division.

Jacob Javits Meeting To Discuss Workplace **Conditions and Benefits**



Officers Jean Mercidieu, Raymundo Leonor, John Groves, Cyril Watson, David Cofield, and Shop Steward Saarah Adu with union representatives Derek Jackson, Director of Law Enforcement Division; Martha Bodhnarain, Esq.; and Len Proctor, Deputy Director of Welfare Fund.

Henry J. Carter Hospital & Nursing Facility Celebration

Henry J. Carter Hospital & Nursing Facility celebrated being ranked #4 in Newsweek as "Best Nursing" Home" in the country. We thank our Hospital Police Officers for being diligent to provide a safe environment for staff, visitors, and patients.



(I-r) **Derek Jackson**, Director of Law Enforcement Division; Business Agent Kangela Moore; Hospital Police Officer Moleus; Sgt. Dillard; Henry J. Carter, Philanthropist and CEO of Wheelchair Charities; Mr. Floyd Long, CEO of Henry J. Carter Hospital & Rehabilitation; Gregory Floyd, President of Local 237 Teamsters; Captain Alago; and Mr. Victor Hart, Director of Hospital Police.



The hospital's namesake Philanthropist and CEO of Wheelchair Charities Mr. Henry J. Carter, Business Agent Kangela Moore and President of Local 237 Teamsters Gregory Floyd.



(l-r) Gregory Floyd, President of Local 237 Teamsters; Hospital Police Officer George Moleus, Sgt. Dillard, Lt. Hicks Johnson, Hospital Police Officer Gael Moleus, Captain Alago; Mr. Victor Hart, Director of Hospital Police; and Derek Jackson, Director of Law **Enforcement** Division.

NEWSLINE, Spring 2023 9 8 NEWSLINE, Spring 2023

Nancy B. True Ms. True was the director of the Retiree Division from 1993 to 2019. Over her

their families.

career, she oversaw the retiree division programs and activities, impacting the lives of thousands of union members and



EKG Techinican First Woman Business Agent and first Woman Executive Board



Thank You! Marie, Pat, Bernice, Corinthians, Hazel, Sonia and You!

from NYCHA as Superintendent. Trail blazer in a man's world. Ms. Maldonado navigated many roles in NYCHA.



retired from NYCHA as Superintendent. In her own words: Except from Local 237's Oral History book:

"I look at the glass ceiling and I see that things have gotten better, but not good enough. I have faith that the all-bovs club will grow and become our club, like a husband and wife, and we'll all become a partnership."



Andrea Harris is the Chief Empowerment Executive at Tools & Tiaras, an organization founded to introduce girls to the trades. She is also the cohost of the podcast Tradeswomen Talk, and in her spare time (a.k.a. her day job) she is a cement mason at the New York City Fire Department. Andrea has been a cement mason for over 20 years and wants to share the importance of the trades and the great opportunities they provide as a career.

"Always be a first rate version of your-

self instead of a second rate version of

someone else." — Andrea Harris



SSA Teri Ghee

She's The Movement Inc is a young women's Empowerment Group ages 13-18 old. We provide mentoring on self-esteem, leadership, critical thinking, and financial literacy. Our goal is to empower our young ladies with the tools to achieve in Life and to pay it forward by helping the next young lady. We are a sisterhood. The Organization is ran by Teri Ghee (President) Javon Peters (VP)

de Eileen" Amanda Sweeney, daughter of Trisha Wade of Local 237's Long Island Division, is the founder and organizer of Eileen's Free Bodega, which she opened as her first community fridge, at the El Salvador Consulate in May, 2021. The fridge started with a pop

"La Bodega Gratuita



tent until they were able to raise money to buy a refrigerator. The idea came from Amanda's volunteering during the pandemic at the Mott Haven fridge when someone suggested to open the fridges in her Long Islnd community. Currently, there are two community fridges, one in Central Islip and the other one is in Brentwood. The fridges are open 24/7 so people can always have access to food. Eileen's Free Bodega is a notfor-profit organization which relies on donations from family, friends, and the community. Amanda, along with her team and volunteers run the fridges and any special events they may have. Local 237 members have supported the fridges with donations such as milk, bread, cereal, produce and other items. The fridge aims to help Long Islanders facing food insecurities. If interested you are interested in learning more about Eileen's Free Bodega, you can follow on Facebook and Instagram. Amanda credits her grandmother, Eileen, with showing her how to be caring and compassionate toward others. She recalls: "My grandmother often spoke of food insecurities and ways to help. She said: "An act of service is love. Food is a human right. Free food for everyone/Comida

Celebrating the Women of Teamsters Local 237

Our Better Angels

By Gregory Floyd

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

across the nation, throughout the month of March, there will be of women in America.

discuss the struggles and wisdom of accomplished women, from Maya Angelou, who once said: "Each time a woman stands up for herself, without knowing it possibly, without claiming it, she stands up for all women," to Rihanna, who is quoted as saying: "There's something special answer."

of courage and determination to improve the lives of working women and families. Some did so indirectly and regrettably as in the case of the 146 young immigrant garment working girls killed, and the 78 of whom sus-still alive. Marie's journalistic diligence caused her to lose her eye at the

tained injuries, in the notorious Triangle Shirt Waist Factory fire in Greenwich Village on March 25 of 1911. From exit doors chain-locked by their employers to Fire Department ladders too short to reach them on the 8th floor, the findings in the aftermath of that horrendous fire led to our state and the nation to legislate safety and health hazard measures to protect workers on the job.

At Local 237, we don't have to look very far for fearless women with an numerous celebrations and tributes to mark the accomplishments extraordinary strength of character who exemplify "never take no for an answer". One such Local 237 member is Marie Colvin. Marie was a war No doubt, there will be seminars, conferences and podcasts galore to correspondent. She wrote about innocent women and children caught in the crossfire of civil war. Her bravery was legendary. A movie, "A Private War", told the real-life story of Marie Colvin, portrayed by Rosamund Pike, that depicted her life behind enemy lines covering stories of human suffering that many did not want told, in dangerous locations, where few would dare about a woman who dominates in a man's world. It takes a certain grace, to go. It was actually a sentence in one of the movie's reviews that caused us strength, intelligence, fearlessness and the nerve to never take no for an to wonder about a possible link to Teamsters Local 237. Our research paid off because we discovered that fresh out of college, she was hired by Local In the labor movement, there are many women who have set examples 237 to write our newsletter. Marie Colvin was a Teamster! Her family told us that she wore our lapel pin proudly. One could easily imagine her today, condemning the bombing of a children's hospital in Ukraine — if she were

hands of Sri Lankan terrorists in 2001, then her life, at age 56 in 2012, we received support from two people, Hazel Dukes, President of the NYS killed by a senior Syrian military officer to silence her. And as proud as we are of Marie, there are several other Teamster women who have done remarkable things on different battle grounds. For example: In March of 2010, Local 237 sued New York City on behalf of our 5,000 School Safety Agents, 70% of whom were women, mostly African Americans and Latinas. Many were single mothers. Their annual salary was about \$7,000 less than their counterparts with similar titles working in other City agencies. Most of them were male. Some called this just a coincidence. It was discrimination! School Safety Agents have a tough job to do. They help to protect who looks like you or has had your experiences. So, use that voice and be other peoples' children. All they wanted was to put bread on the table for strong." And that's exactly what these women did! their own children. So I called for a meeting of School Safety Agents to tell them about plans to sue the City. I told them that we needed some volunteers to sign the papers and be the official plaintiffs. Of the 25 women in the room, 22 left. But three remained: Patricia Williams, Bernice Christopher and the late Corinthians Andrews. And for four years, these three gave testimony after testimony. They refused any settlement that did not include retirees. They took days off from work. They took time away from being with their families. They worked on the case despite health issues and attended most of our rallies. At times, we felt pretty much alone, but then personification of our better angels.

NAACP and Sonia Ossorio, President of the NYC Chapter of NOW— two women who came to aid a cause on behalf of women workers, but benefitting all School Safety Agents. I still remember the day of the judge's final ruling. Pat, Bernice, and Corinthians came into the courthouse and knelt in prayer before they took their seats. Perhaps there was a little divine intervention, but with the help of Hazel and Sonia, an historic settlement was reached. Clearly, the words of Vice President Kamala Harris ring true: "You're going to walk into many rooms where you may be the only one

Throughout the pandemic and beyond, so many of our women members were an integral part of our union's overall efforts to keep the City functioning. For us, it is not difficult to identify women who should be honored during Women's History Month. We are especially blessed to have among our own members, and our friends, women who care about others and want everyone else to care too. That's who they are. That's their legacy. And we take pride in knowing them. Thank you, Marie, Pat, Bernice, Corinthians, Hazel, Sonia and so many others who are the



DCAS Officer Vitale has three beautiful young children and works very hard every day to take care of her family.



Officer, has 13 years on the job. She loves Adrianne Miller, her job but find it Elevator Mechanic difficult as a hispanic Manhattan, woman to be taken 14 years of service seriously in this male dominated field.





Level I Flovd and Level III. Chism, two great women hard at work keeping all safe and secure in one of the most active High Schools in New York City, Whiedlegh High School.



Ladies assigned to Paul Robeson Campus, under the great leadership of School Safety Sergeant Vanessa Brown. We salute you for hard work and dedication.



Under the excellent leadership of School Safety Sergeant Raven Cannon, we celebrate the ladies of South Shore Campus, SI. Thank you for a job well done.



dedicated School Safety Agent who has been continuously strong not only dealing with her son's health issues but also on the job working to ensure that all the students she oversees are safe as well. Agent Robinson's dual life as a parent and as an SSA exemplifies the strength and compassion we honor during Women's History Month.

SSA Tabitha Robinson is a hard-working,

SSA Robinson's son, Justin has been hospitalized since December 4, 2022 awaiting a heart transplant. On Sunday February 5, Justin underwent an 18-hour heart surgery. Currently, Justin has been taken off the ventilator and breathing tubes have been removed. Throughout this whole ordeal his Mom, Tabitha, has been by his side.

Hostlers - NYPD Mounted Unit



Stephanie **Zuzworsky-Bennett** "Horses are my Hobby, my Career, my Life and my Love" never a dull moment."



Katie Raszewski "I love working with horses. They're honest and silly and sassy and sweet. There's



Denise Gadsby love what you do."



"To me, the job is daily "It's not work if you emotional support at the work place.'

GLEN COVE OYSTER BAY HUNTINGTON COMMACK SMITH KOWN CENTEREACH MANORVILLS MANO

LONG ISLAND REPORT

CONGRATULATIONS!



Benny Carenza, Director Long Island Division presents **Bob Hand** a retirement plaque. Bob was a Shop Steward for his school at North Babylon. Congrats!



North Babylon member **James Benizzi** (center) retires after 36 years on the job! Jimmy was very instrumental on the past negotiating committees, and we heartily thank him! Go fishing now, Jimmy full time!



Long Island Business Agent **John Gallagher** congratulates **Stephanie Cozzetto**, who is the first woman Night Head Custodian at Half Hollow Hills School District! We know she will be a great addition to Half Hollow Hills.



Local 237 Computer Aide **Linda Ferrante** doing a great job for the staff and students of the Plainview/Old Bethpage School District.

AWESOME CONTRACT VOTE FOR BRENTWOOD SCHOOLS



Overwhelmingly ratified by the members. Congrats to all!

Local 237 member **Shawn Dimperio** rewiring an emergency ballast light fixture, in one of the many Brentwood schools.

"EXCELLENT" AWARD



Receiving the first ever monthly "Excellent" Award from the Town of Babylon, is **Kenny McGowan**. He was reccomended by his foreman for work "above and beyond". Kenny is also a mentor to all new employees, who thank him. Great job Kenny!



(left) Town of Babylon Supervisor Rich Schaffer, (third from left) Kenny McGowan.

POLITICAL AND LABOR NEWS

President Gregory Floyd receiving in-depth reports at IBT General Executive Board meeting



Gregory Floyd (r) Vice President at-Large on the IBT's General Executive Board.



General President Sean O'Brien and Secretary-Treasurer Fred Zuckerman.

The International Brotherhood of Teamsters General President **Sean M. O'Brien** convened his administration's third General Executive Board meeting, during which the 27 International officers and regional vice presidents, including Local 237 President, **Gregory Floyd**, who serves as the Vice President-at Large, heard in-depth reports by the General President and the General Secretary-Treasurer, **Fred Zuckerman**, including contract campaign updates, the recent midterm elections, and department initiatives.

Local 237 Is A Real Winner!

The International Labor Communications Association (ILCA) recently announced its one-of-a-kind labor communications contest winners. Annually, the organization hosts what is now the largest competition exclusively for labor journalists. Thousands of entries that tell the story of the global labor movement are judged by experts in the field across the industry.

ILCA award categories are in general excellence, visual communications, best multimedia campaign, writing, electronic media, best use of earned media, political action, and organizing. Teamsters Local 237 was awarded three top prizes: The Max Steinbock Award and honors for feature story writing and another for design. The Max Steinbock Award is ILCA's highest award for journalistic excellence, are given in recognition of outstanding effort that explores an issue of concern to working families, paying particular attention to insight into the human spirit.

All three winners can be seen by going to:

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1jzibNKwLgM6yPLBU_Q T9yMFRDtT4dVdZ

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1QzetnUNH3Z21d_bpoj3DmUsVYEfrl8-4

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1qCOD5dckJmNRDyU1i l6KYqbwAViBILOl

Chelsea Connor, President of ILCA, and Director of Communications for the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union (RWDSU) said about the importance of labor communications and organizations like ILCA that acknowledges, supports and promotes these communications: "In this moment, the labor movement has seized the world's attention through inspiring organizing campaigns at Starbucks, Amazon, REI, Delta, and more. The stories that labor journalists and unions are telling are key components of this newly revitalized movement, and the ILCA Labor Media Awards recognize the important work our members are doing." Phyllis Shafran, who accepted the awards on behalf of President Floyd, said, "The goal is to keep our members well-informed about things that matter to them."

Reflecting on Black History Month: It's not easy being a labor leader, especially a Black labor leader.

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

Across this nation, throughout February, there were celebrations in honor of Black History Month. It's a time not only to celebrate, but to educate. It's a time to acknowledge the accomplishments, delight in the rich heritage and retell the history of a people often forgotten, mistreated, and misunderstood.

But Black History Month is not without controversy. Some critics say that empowerment is not accomplished by one month of recognition. Others find it outdated, only symbolic, not necessary, and even separatist.

For me, there is no controversy. Black History Month is not about validation. It's about involvement. It's about action. It's about recognition. And, most important, it's a call to duty. Black History Month should be about creating more accomplishments, breaking more barriers, and earning the respect of <u>ALL</u> people.

February is known as the month for acknowledging "The Best" in many categories—from the Super Bowl to the Grammy Awards. Let's use the occasion to honor our own list of "Best In Class" and work to add more names to it. For sure, the list is already long with many giants and "firsts", past and present, including Dr. King, Rev. Butts, former President Barack Obama, Justice of the Supreme Court, Ketanji Brown Jackson, and Congress Members like Chisholm and Jeffries.

But while Black History Month remembers the past and celebrates the present, it must also look to the future. It should be a time that helps to motivate, mentor, and nurture our next generation of champions in the struggle for social and labor justice. For labor unions, there's an important principle used in organizing efforts to increase our numbers. That principle is: Show workers how they benefit from joining a union. That principle also holds true to inspiring and exciting young people to get more involved. It's not easy for any labor leader to

accomplish, and that's especially true for Black labor leaders. Take, for example, the remarkable win to unionize Amazon workers in Staten Island. That was no small feat! It was a victory unthinkable a mere three years ago! Yet, in March of 2020, an Amazon warehouse worker, Christian Smalls, led a walkout in protest of deplorable, Covid-related conditions. Amazon's general counsel said of Smalls:

"He's not smart or articulate. If the press wants to focus on him, we will be in a much stronger PR position." WOW! What arrogance. They dismissed Smalls.

To them, he was insignificant. In fact, they welcomed him. They figured this tattooed young Black man couldn't accomplish very much. So, Amazon fired him

But their strategy backfired. Without deep pockets and only a "GO FUND ME" page, Smalls created a grass roots, worker-to-worker campaign. He connected with his co-workers in a way no highly paid PR team could. The story of Christian Smalls is the story of so many Black labor leaders from A. Philip Randolph on down.

All labor leaders experience challenges, but for many Black labor leaders, the challenges are even greater. The job of increasing membership, while also inspiring leaders-in-the making, is often met with low expectations and disrespect, from both inside and outside of the union. But there is hope.

Although union membership across the nation has declined, New York remains strong at roughly 22%. And about 70% of the union workforce is in the public sector, with African Americans making up the largest number. So, here's a suggestion: Let's use our strength in numbers to not only grow our base of members, but to also support and encourage a next generation of Black labor leadership. We *can* connect. And that's how leadership is gained and maintained.



Time to Cross the Finish Line!

By Saul Fishman

CSBA President

CSBA members want and deserve the ability to perform a significant part of our work remotely. We have been consistently, strenuously advocating for this important work-life balance measure from even before the pandemic struck. During and shortly after the peak of the pandemic, we successfully performed our tasks remotely for eighteen months (approximately one and a half years). If anything, our productivity increased!

After hearing for the longest time from Mayor Adams that "people can't work from home in their pajamas", reality has finally set in. Certain titles, including Agency Attorneys, can perform most (or almost all) of their work from anywhere in the world with an internet connection. And if you don't allow at least some degree of telework (i.e.- two to three days per week), skilled professionals will leave for employers who allow this option. Indeed, so many of our colleagues have left (more than 20 percent of Agency Attorneys and Attorneys-at-Law) that much of the work either isn't getting done or is significantly delayed to the detriment of New Yorkers needing their time-sensitive cases and applications reviewed.

Part of the recognition of us being a hard-toretain, as well as a hard-to-recruit title, began with the waiving of our residency requirement this past November. Needless to say that didn't happen by accident. We pushed hard in both bargaining and in the media for both telework and the end of our residency requirement. Enter DC 37, the largest municipal union, which joined us in the push for telework. Belatedly, the mayor has recognized that the world has changed and that many of the city's best employees are being poached by companies (and non-profits and other levels of government) that have realistic telework policies.

Long story short – As DC 37's tentative agreement with the city is moving toward ratification (membership vote pending, results expected by early April), details of telework are supposed to be worked out on or about June 1st as per the City - DC 37 joint press conference and press release. Assuming ratification, not only will the economic pattern be set, but we should also be able to work out a suitable plan which works for our members and agencies.

We will let you, our hard-working members, know when there's an update. Our next two collective bargaining sessions are scheduled for March 22 and April 18. Our Facebook page (CSBA Attorneys) and our website (www.csbanyc.org) are good pages to check for such updates.

Happy Spring and thank you as always for your patience and support!

P.S. – FYI: City employees, including us, will continue receiving high-quality, premium-free health insurance, an extremely rare benefit these days. Almost all private sector employees, as well as NYS employees, pay thousands of dollars in premiums per year. Thank you, Municipal Labor Committee. I

POLITICAL AND LABOR NEWS

On the Legislative Front:

By Vito R. Pitta, Esq. Member, Pitta Bishop & Del Giorno, LLC

City Legislation:

Bill

No. Type

Status

Yr

As the New Year began, The New York City Council has seen sustained activity in its legislative output. The following are several pieces of legislation introduced since December 2022 to monitor as well as bills that have been enacted in that span:

Committee

Prime

Sponsor

(current)

"Name"

2022	<u>Int</u> 0837	Introduction	on	Committe	e	Consume Worker Protection			abán, ffany	Wrongful discharge from employment.	
2022	<u>Int</u> 0864	And the same of th		Committee	e	Civil and Rights	Human	R		Forbidding agreements to shorten the period in which claims and complaints of unlawful discriminatory practices, harassment or violence may be filed and in which civil actions may be commenced.	
2023	<u>Int</u> 0874	Introduction		Laid Over in Committee		Civil Service and Labor			e La Rosa, armen N.	Health insurance coverage for city employees, city retirees, and their dependents.	
2023	<u>Int</u> 087			Committee		Civil Service and Labor		Al	breu, Shaun	Requiring an exit interview for departing and retiring municipal employees.	
2023 <u>Int</u>		Introduction		Committee		Civil and Human Rights		P	rooks- owers, elvena N.	Information required in job listings.	
2023	Int 0911 Introduction		on	Committee Pul		Public S	Marte, afety Christopher		77.7	Requiring a report on outreach by the police department and fire department to police officers, firefighters, and civilian employees potentially exposed to environmental hazards as a result of the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2011 and its aftermath.	
2023	<u>Int</u> 0946	Introducti	Introduction		Committee		Mental Health, Disabilities and Addiction		udson, rystal	Creating a mental health coordinator to inform city employees about mental health support and services.	
2022	Res 0415	Resolution Committee F		Committee		Cultural Libraries Internation Interground Relations	, and onal p	A	riola, Joann	September 11 Day of Remembrance Act.	
2022	Res						vilés, Alexa	Amend the education law in relation to school climate and codes of conduct on school property and disciplinary action following violation of such codes of conduct. (A.5197/ S.7198)			
٧.	Bill	Type Introduction		Enacted Ri Enacted (Mayor's Desk for Ge			Prime Sponso			Package - Agency diversity y data and pay equity	
Yr 2022	Int					ommittee vil and uman ghts	Adams (Speake				
2022	<u>Int</u> 0522	Introduction	(M			eneral elfare	Bottche Eric D.	er,	Requiring mental health professionals in families with children shelters.		
	<u>Int</u>	Introduction				vil ervice d Labor	De La Rosa, Carmen N.		Pay Equity Package - Evaluation and expansion of diverse recruitment and retention within the municipal government.		
	Int	Introduction			Civil Service and Labor		Louis, Farah N.		Pay Equity Package - Amending the reporting of pay and employment equity data.		

BILL STATUS:

Committee – This bill has been officially introduced and assigned to a committee, which has not yet held a hearing. that will hold public hearings to o.

Laid Over in Committee - The assigned committee has held a hearing on the bill, taking testimony and feedback from the relevant city agencies as well as other government entities and members of the public who may be affected by the bill.

Enacted (Mayor's Desk for Signature) – This City Council voted on and approved the bill, but it has not yet been signed by the mayor (only required for Introductions). The mayor has 30 days to either sign the bill into law, veto the bill, or take no action.

Enacted/Approved – This City Council voted on and approved the bill, and (if applicable) it has been signed by the mayor or adopted by Charter rule.

IN OTHER NEWS:

Speaker Adams Plans to Revive NYCHA Infill Plan

On Wednesday March 8, New York City Council Speaker Adrienne Adams delivered her 2023 State of the City Address at the Justice Sonia Sotomayor Houses and Community Center in the Bronx. The Speaker outlined her vision to invest in the City's workforce by expanding access to economic mobility, safer neighborhoods, and housing.

As part of her #PeopleOverEverything framework, Speaker Adams announced a plan to expand on the twice-failed infill development plan for the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA). Infill development refers to the process of developing new housing on existing property. In the case of NYCHA, this would involve developing units at properties that have fallen into disrepair.

Similar plans under Mayors Michael Bloomberg and Bill de Blasio, developers would lease land at a hefty fee meant to cover the cost of upgrades to dilapidated units. The new housing would be built by private developers on NYCHA's playgrounds, parking lots, and basketball courts. While a percentage of the units were to remain permanently affordable, the developers could rent the rest out at market rates.

While staunch opposition from both tenants and local elected officials halted NYCHA infill projects from the two previous mayors, the Speaker's model expands upon them with plans to add thousands of mixed-income housing, senior housing, and supportive housing – all meant to help cover the costs of the new affordable units. The Speaker will conduct extensive outreach to tenants and elected officials before proposing specific NYCHA locations and determining funding plans.

NYCHA Falling Behind on Mold Action Plan

On Tuesday February 28, New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) officials testified at an oversight hearing of the New York City Council Committee on Public Housing. At the hearing, titled 'Air Quality in NYCHA Apartments', officials from the housing authority were questioned on their response to mold and pest complaints, which, along with ongoing constructions, are connected to the air quality at its developments.

In January of 2019, NYCHA entered into an agreement with the United States Department of Housing and Development (HUD) with the goal of improving the Authority's ability to respond to issues as well as increase its level of transparency. Among the any performance metrics assigned to NYCHA by HUD and supervised by the court-appointed federal monitor, are response times to mold and pest complaints. As part of the 2019 agreement's Mold Action Plan, NYCHA is to complete simple mold repairs within 5 days of the work order, allowing for 15 days for complex repairs. At the hearing, NYCHA testified that it takes them an average of 290 days to close on the inspection and cleaning of mold work orders, before work on the underlying cause begins.

NYCHA officials also testified that they have completed 6,000 of the required 10,000 ventilation system repairs and replacements required by the Mold Action Plan. While the Council expressed concern with these failures, NYCHA claimed that mold complaints were down 34% in 2022 (when compared with 2021 figures) – something the authority attributes to its ventilation repair program. NYCHA requested funding to address the larger infrastructure issues that are root causes of poor air quality such as a need for repaired plumbing system and moisture penetration in roofs. As of the hearing, there are 35,860 open mold work orders impacting 16,294 NYCHA apartments.

NYCHA CEO Has Positive Outlook on Vacancy Rates

During the March 1, 2023 episode of 'Mornings on 1', New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) interim-CEO Lisa Bova-Hiatt made an appearance to discuss the authority's rising vacancy rates. As of January 2023, NYCHA's vacancy rate is 3.7% (a percentage that is 1.9% higher than in 2022).

Responding to these figures, Bova-Hiatt said that the increase is being caused by growing waiting lists for movement from unsafe apartments and deferred remediation of empty units. The interim-CEO also noted that compared to other public housing authorities and the private sector, NYCHA is actually outperforming them on vacancies – according to the NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development, over 4.5% of all NY apartments were vacant.

On the topic of skilled trade vacancies, Bova-Hiatt expressed the need for more competitive salaries to fill their 140 vacant skilled trade jobs. She pointed to the nearly \$500 million in unpaid rent arrears as a solution to solving NYCHA's many vacancy woes.



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.



Keeping you in the know



Short-Term Disability Benefits

By Mitch Goldberg

If you become disabled and cannot work because of an injury or illness that is not job-related or is not covered by no-fault auto insurance, you are eligible to receive short-term disability benefits. There is a 14-day waiting period for benefits to begin. A physician must examine you within 3 days of your disability for these days to be included in the waiting period; otherwise the 14-day waiting period begins only when

you are examined. You will lose your right to this benefit if the Fund requests that you have an examination by a physician and the examination does not take place within two weeks of the Fund's request. If you are being treated for substance abuse, your treatment at a particular center or institute is required, in writing, by the physician who certifies that you are disabled. In addition, if the treatment continues for more than two weeks, the treatment center or institute must have a licensed physician on duty who can provide certification of your continued disability.

The amount of the benefit is 50% of your weekly salary up to a maximum benefit of \$300 a week. Benefits begin on the 15th day of your disability, unless you are hospitalized; in that case, benefits are paid from the first day you are confined to the hospital. In any event, you must miss a day of work due to your covered disability for disability benefits to start.

You will be entitled to receive no more than 52 weeks of disability benefit payments during any 104-week period regardless of how many separate disabilities or recurrences you experience during that period. If you return to work before you use up your 52 weeks of disability benefit payments and you are again disabled, you will be entitled to receive benefit payments only for the remainder of the 52 weeks of eligibility you have left during the 104-week period.

In order to receive these disability benefits, you must obtain a claim form from the Fund Office. There are three sections to this form; you should complete the employee section, your doctor should complete the "Attending Physician's Section," and your supervisor should complete the employer section.

Return the completed claim form to the Fund Office within 30 days from the first day of your disability. If you cannot submit a claim form within that time period, you must send a letter explaining the reason for the delay and the details of your disability. If the Fund Director determines that the delay in submitting the form was not for good cause, your claim for benefits may be completely or partially disallowed.

In general, the Fund's short-term disability benefits are not payable for the following injuries or illnesses:

Automobile Accidents. If you are injured as a result of an automobile accident that is covered by nofault insurance, you are not entitled to receive the Fund's short-term disability benefits. Automobile accidents that are covered by no-fault insurance include accidents involving cars, vans, SUVs, taxicabs, private car service vehicles and buses. If you are injured in such an accident, you should contact the insurance carrier covering the vehicle involved in the accident and apply for no-fault insurance benefits, as the Fund will not provide benefits in such cases.

Job-Related Injuries or Illnesses. If your injury or illness is job-related, the Fund's short-term disability benefit would not be payable and you would need to file a workers' compensation claim for benefits. If the Fund receives a notice (Workers' Compensation Form C-7) that the claim is controverted by your employer, then the Fund will pay its benefit, pending the resolution of your workers' compensation claim. In such case, the Fund will have a lien on the workers' compensation benefits awarded to you (if any). This means that, if you are paid by the Fund and you are later awarded workers' compensation benefits for the same illness or injury and time period, the Fund is entitled to recover the amount it paid to you, out of your worker's compensation benefits, so that you are not paid twice for the same illness or injury.

The Role of Social Workers



in Society and at Local 237

By Edith Johnston, LCSW

Deputy Director, Retiree Division

March was National Professional Social Workers Month, founded by the National Association of Social Workers in 2010 to honor the great profession of social work. Social workers can work in many settings, such as unions like Teamsters Local 237, where there are social workers on staff to assist active and retired members. If you might be interested in becoming a social worker, I would like to provide some information about the social work profession and the people who become social workers: People become social workers to help others and to make our society a better place for everyone. Social workers have brought about significant, positive changes to our country. Former Labor Secretary Frances Perkins and civil rights leaders Dorothy Height, Whitney Young, and Ida B. Wells have advocated for voting rights, equal rights, social security, unemployment insurance, and other programs.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, social work is one of the fastest-growing professions in the United States. The country currently has nearly 720,000 professional social workers.

Social workers can be found in different places, such as hospitals, nursing homes, schools, senior centers, community organizations, drug and alcohol treatment centers, private practice, and academia, just to mention a few. Social workers touch the lives of millions of people; you, a family member, or a friend has probably been helped or is currently being helped by a social worker.

For example, do you want to improve your relationship with your spouse, partner, kids, or parents? A social worker can assist you in making stronger connections. Do you suffer from depression, anxiety, or substance abuse? A social worker can assist you in overcoming these obstacles. And as this country grapples with issues such as racism, economic uncertainty, deeply political and cultural divides, and natural disasters caused by global warming, social workers will continue to play an essential role in assisting people.

Have you met the social worker of Local 237? Do you know what we can do for you?

ACTIVE MEMBERS SOCIAL WORKER

The active member social worker can assist members with a multitude of issues including but not limited to mental and emotional health, advocacy, task-oriented counseling, and connection to community resources and entitlements, rental arrears, and childcare vouchers. She/he meets members at their work sites to problem solve and provide counseling after unexpected traumatic events.

Karla Steinberg, LMSW • ksteinberg@local237.org Active Members Social Worker

RETIRED MEMBERS SOCIAL WORKERS

The retiree division social workers can help you with your retirement process, answer questions about benefits and entitlements, connect you with community resources, such as housing, mental health providers, and more. We provide clinical support to caregivers, crisis intervention, assess ment, and support on elder abuse cases, facilitate support groups, and bereavement counseling. We program and coordinate recreational activities, classes, and educational seminars with experts in different fields.

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Springing into Action

By Karla Steinberg, LMSW

Membership Social Worker

After a mild winter, spring is now upon us. While many use the new year as an opportunity to set boundaries and goals, I want to remind you all that with spring comes a re-awakening, a rebirth. Flowers, plants, animals that have been dormant or hibernating during the colder months, start to thaw, awaken, and everything becomes lush again. There is never a bad time to stop and reassess where you are in life, and certainly you don't have to wait until December 31st.

It is often at this time of year, spring, that we notice our well-intentioned aspirations have fallen to the wayside. If this sounds like you, I offer a quote from the movie, Vanilla Sky: "Every passing minute is another chance to turn it all around." Now that spring is here, you may be feeling more invigorated and energetic. This is not a coincidence; the sun is out longer, we're getting more vitamin D from being outside and it's a lively, fruitful time. If you feel like the ship has sailed on your resolutions, or, you have come up with new ones, let this time be one of rebirth for you as well. Whether it's a new health goal, work goal, new routine, or even just letting go of something that does not serve you, there is never a bad time.

Resolutions, promises to yourself in the hope of betterment are always good things. Sometimes, we fall short of what we had intended or aspired to be or do. This is also okay, and normal. Be patient with yourself; you're only one person trying to work and manage your responsibilities. Maybe you care for children or other family members, not to mention yourself. It is a practice to set goals and ensure that you are setting yourself up for success as much as possible. It is a good idea to assess the practicality of your goal, and lay out the steps of how to get there. If your goal is to be a millionaire by end of the year, you may need to manage your expectations. Here are some ways to break down your goals.

- 1. What is not working as well as I would like it to? Do I have any control over this? If so, what is it that I need to do? Who can I ask for support in this? How can I support myself?
- 2. What is going well for me? What works and why? What is the feeling I have around this area of my life?
- 3. Who can I talk to about this to hold me gently accountable? How can I organize my goals to stay on track as much as possible (hey, life happens)?

Poet Robert Burns once said, "The best laid plans of mice and men often go awry." It can be helpful to think of what you have agency over, and what happens when things don't go as ideally as you would like. By laying out a plan or organizing the steps you need to follow, you can measure where you are in your process. It can also help suss out if your goals need to be modified. When we encounter obstacles, it can be easy to get side-tracked, disappointed, and feel like the momentum is gone.

Some things to think about:

- 1. Can I control it?
- 2. Did I cause it?
- 3. Can I fix it?

Once you have those answers, you can hopefully move on and keep putting your energy toward what serves you. Maybe it's getting that closet reorganized, maybe it's realizing that the closet will also be there tomorrow, and today you need to take a stroll outside because it's too beautiful a day to spend inside. Give yourself permission to succeed and to do it the best, gentlest way you know how.



The city's Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) is partnering with various community organizations to offer summer employment. If you know of anyone aged 14-24 looking for a summer job, they can apply to SYEP by visiting nyc.gov/syep.

Resumen En Español

Speranza de la Primavera de la

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

a cantautora Sheryl Crow dijo memorablemente sobre la primavera:

"No importa lo caótico que sea, las flores silvestres seguirán surgiendo en medio de la nada."

En nuestra batalla con Covid-19, su comentario es de lo más acertado. Y tanto la Madre Naturaleza como la naturaleza humana parecen estar de acuerdo desde que aparecen brotes en las ramas, la luz del día dura un poco más y empujamos nuestras botas de nieve y orejeras al fondo del armario. A medida que el caos de Covid parece disminuir, permitiendo que las restricciones se suavicen, la sensación es que la primavera ha brotado, dando paso a nuevos comienzos, a una sensación de esperanza e inspiración.

Se ha escrito mucho sobre la estación. Toni Morrison, el ganador del Premio Nobel de Literatura en 1993, escribió:

"Cuando llega la primavera a la Ciudad, la gente observa a los demás en la calle; se fija en los extraños con los que comparte pasillos y mesas... Es la época del año en la que la Ciudad motiva más a la contradicción, animándote a comprar comida callejera cuando no tienes apetito alguno; dándote el gusto por una habitación individual ocupada sólo por ti, así como el antojo de compartirla con alguien con quien te has cruzado en la calle. Realmente no hay contradicción, más bien es una condición...".

La fundadora ghanesa de la Fundación Smart Youth Volunteer, Lailah Gifty Akita, llama a la primavera:

"Una estación para que el alma recupere sus fuerzas."

Incluso el comediante Robin Williams opinó sobre la primavera, calificándola de,

"La f<mark>orma que tiene la na</mark>turaleza de decir Vamos de fiesta."

No es casualidad que la Pascua de Resurrección (Easter) y la Pascua Judía (Passover) sean fiestas de primavera. La renovación de la naturaleza que llega con la primavera, intensifica la promesa de redención incorporada en los casos históricos que conmemoran ambas religiones. La Pascua de Resurrección (Easter) celebra la resurrección de Jesús y su victoria sobre la muerte. Alrededor de la misma época -y a menudo superponiéndose- el pueblo judío celebra la Pascua (Passover), la fiesta que conmemora el éxodo de los hebreos de la esclavitud en Egipto. En ambas festividades, las fiestas, la naturaleza y la historia convergen con un rotundo mensaje de esperanza. Tratan de la liberación de un estado de desesperación. La Pascua (Easter) asegura al individuo que la vida es eterna. Ofrece una salida de un mundo irreparable. Celebra una religión que proporcionó consuelo a muchos que habían perdido la fe en los dioses de Roma. Difunde el mensaje de que la muerte de uno tiene la capacidad de salvar a muchos. La Pascua

(Passover) convoca a los judíos colectivamente en el mundo para repararlo. Entre sus mensajes se encuentra el de que un faraón tirano podía ser derrocado. Una nación tan poderosa como el antiguo Egipto podía ser derrotada. Los esclavos podrían convertirse en hombres libres. Los oprimidos podrían romper

los grilletes de su cautiverio. Todo es posible, si nos atrevemos a soñar lo imposible.

Fue el relato bíblico del éxodo de Egipto lo que permitió que prevaleciera el espíritu de optimismo de los seguidores de Martin Luther King Jr. en su búsqueda de la igualdad de derechos, porque estaban incitados por la visión de Moisés conduciendo a su pueblo a la Tierra Prometida. De hecho, el histórico discurso que King pronunció en el Mason Temple de Memphis, a donde acudió el 3 de abril de 1968 para apoyar a los trabajadores de los

servicios sanitarios, que protestaban por sus míseros salarios de 1,65 dólares la hora y sus deplorables condiciones de trabajo, contenía la frase profética:

"Puede que no llegue allí con uste<mark>des. Per</mark>o quiero que sepan esta noche, que nosotros, omo pueblo, llegaremos a la Tierra Prometida."

Fue asesinado al día siguiente. Resultaba irónico que muchos de los partidarios, ayudantes y confidentes de King le hubieran instado a no ampliar su enfoque y salir de su zona de confort

para asumir nuevas causas, como la Campaña de la Gente Pobre que él estaba impulsando. King no tendría nada de eso. En lugar de ello, incitó a los trabajadores sanitarios a ir a la huelga diciéndoles:

"Ustedes tienen que profundizar <mark>un poco la</mark> lucha."

Y contrarrestó el estrecho enfoque de sus aliados con:

"Hemos entrado en una era en la que estamos llamados a plantear ciertas cuestiones básicas sobre toda la sociedad."

Esperamos que la historia de nuestra nación siga reflejando el renacimiento que es la primavera y reconozca la advertencia del Dr. King de que:

"el cambio no entra rodando sobre las ruedas de la inevitabilidad sino que llega a través de lucha continua."

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An "Interesting" Financial Opportunity is "Springing" to Life! By David Bonington, CFP®

Financial Planner, Stacey Braun Associates, Inc.

I'm happy to be able to call attention here to a financial opportunity which seems to get better almost every week.

Spring is commonly thought of as a season for clearing out the old and ushering in the new. This Spring, after a long "Interest-Rate Winter", there is an opportunity which hasn't been available in over a decade: the opportunity to earn meaningful interest in savings accounts.

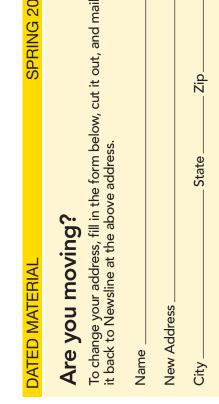
After the Great Recession ended in 2010, inflation was low for many years. During this "long Winter" we became used to banks paying essentially no interest on savings. Then came the pandemic, bringing with it stimulus packages and worldwide supply chain disruptions. When demand is high and supply falters, inflation roars to life — and it has stayed hot. To bring it under control, the Federal Reserve Bank raised interest rates dramatically in 2022, and is expected to raise rates further. This is difficult for borrowers — but it creates opportunities for savers, who can take advantage of higher rates offered on deposits.

An informal survey of banks shows that interest on "High-Yield" Savings Accounts currently approaches 4.0%. These accounts require no minimum deposits, charge no fees, are FDIC-insured, and a depositor can access funds at any time. If you are comfortable with online banking, rates can be a bit better.

For savers able and willing to "lock up" funds for several months, Certificates of Deposit ("CDs") offer still better rates. CD rates are higher because the depositor is committing to keeping money invested for a specified term. If a CD contract is broken early, there is a fee so be sure committed funds won't be needed before maturity. Two final, important points: (1) keep CD maturities short (for example, 3, 6, or 9 months), because if interest rates keep going up you may find even better deals available when that CD you booked today matures; and (2) make sure to notify the bank BEFORE maturity if you DON'T want a maturing CD to be automatically rolled into a new CD of like length, and instead want your funds (plus interest) restored to your regular, withdraw-anytime savings account.

Stacey Braun provides free consulting to Local 237 members on a range of financial topics. Many of you already use this benefit — but if you have not, please see below!

Free, confidential sessions with a Stacey Braun planner are available to all active and retired Local 237 members. They can be arranged by calling 1-888-949-1925. No financial products are sold and there is never sales pressure.





Forever In Our Hearts

On behalf of President Gregory Floyd, the Executive Board and Staff:

We offer sincere condolences to the families of our members who have passed away.

The Education and Training Department offers a variety of courses to aid in your personal and professional advancement!



By Shanell Grayson

Director of Training and Education

Women's History Month is a wonderful opportunity to not only introduce our newly appointed, all female Education Department Staff, but also to highlight some of the women who have benefitted from the Education and Training Department's courses. I truly hope that



(I-r) Shanell Grayson, Director; Geraldine Carpentier, Education Coordinator; and Katie Grate, Assistant Director.

by reading their inspiring testimony, you too will take advantage of the free education and training benefits that are available to you. We look forward to serving you!

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Claudine John, Assistant Housing Manager

Proper leadership defines the behavior of an entire organization. Local 237's Education Department has embraced its members and has shown interest in their advancement. I truly appreciate the Education Department's full support. Thank you for caring and supporting your members.



Tenika Williams, Heating Plant Technician

Local 237 has helped me immensely, especially the Education Department. I've taken advantage of several of the civil service prep classes that the Education Department offers at no charge to the members. This is a great way to help the members achieve their goals. Thanks!

Interested in any of the Education Department's FREE Courses?

Email: training@local237.org Call: 212-807-0550

Scan the QR Code to register. **REGISTER NOW!**



CIVIL SERVICE EXAM PREP CLASSES

- CUNY Sergeant (Exam TBA)
- Superintendent (March)
- Associate Water Use Inspector (June)
- Maintenance Worker (June)

FREE COLLEGE AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- Free Associate's Degree Program > Members and their families
- ➤ Unionplus.org/freecollege
- Union Plus Scholarship
- > Members and their families
- > Unionplus.org
- Teamsters International Scholarship
- ➤ High School Seniors
- ➤ JRHMS.org

COURSES AT PARTICIPATING UNIONS

- CDL Training
 - > Joint Council 16: (212) 924-0002
 - ➤ Spring 2023
- GED Prep
- > 1199: (212) 894-4362 > UAW: (212) 228-0041
- English and Spanish Courses
- ≻1199: (212) 494-0525

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSES

- Beginning Computer Skills (April)
- Shop Steward Training (April) ➤ For current Shop Stewards
- Advanced Computer Skills (May)
- Basic Education Skills (May) • Fundamentals of Heating Plant
- **Operations Course**

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSES

• Wellness Wind Down (April)

- Healing for the Mind, Body and Soul Including:
 - > 30 Minute Meditations > Adult and Child CPR
 - ➤ CRAZE Civil Response to
 - **Active Shooter Events**
 - ➤ Financial Literacy
 - ➤ Healthy Habits
 - > Modern Day Parenting and Gang Prevention
 - > Stress Reduction
 - > Surviving Post-COVID
 - ➤ And more...
- Defensive Driving NY (May)
- ➤ 10% off insurance
- → 4 points off license



Social Security Launches Redesigned Website at <u>SSA.gov</u>

By Thomas McMahon

District Manager, Social Security in Downtown Manhattan

Have you visited the redesigned <u>SSA.gov</u> yet? In December 2022, we updated our homepage with a new design to help you find what you need more easily.

Now, with improved self-service accessibility to online services, you might not have to call or visit an office to get what you need. ■

