

LOCAL 237 NEWSLINE

Vol. 56, No. 4

Winter 2022

2023

Being Resolute About Resolutions

Throughout the nation, so many people are worried about a variety of issues from public safety to the environment, to the economy. Many have expressed disappointment in our government and institutional leadership which has often been uneven and uninspiring. Many of our traditional political classifications and procedures have been challenged, broken or redefined. Today, which of the two major political parties in our nation best represents the values and needs of working people has been called into question. I remember a time we more clearly knew. However, currently, national union membership is on the rise. A coincidence? I doubt it. A void exists and unions are filling it — again. Historically, and especially in times of national crisis and uncertainty, the American Labor Movement has given workers what no other body could provide: Understanding, strengthen in numbers, and a voice.



So, among my hopes and prayers for 2023 is the full resurgence of unions to resume their much-needed place as guardians of working families. There may be other groups or other entities, elected officials and political parties that are labor-friendly, but only labor unions are about one thing and one thing only: Justice for the worker. That's our full-time job. Past generations knew this and saw, first-hand, the difference labor unions can make in a worker's life. As we help nurture, encourage and inspire the next generation of union members, activists and leaders, this is a lesson to be taught and a lesson to be learned well.

Gregory Floyd

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

May your Christmas be filled with the true miracles and meaning of this merry time. For your Christmas time, I wish you many blessings, much happiness, and even more love. May the closeness of friends, the comfort of home, and the unity of our nation renew your spirits this festive season. Merry Christmas to your family.



Jeanette I. Taveras

Law Enforcement Business Agent and Recording Secretary on Local 237's Executive Board

My hopes and dreams for 2023 are to get back to a sense of normalcy regarding the Pandemic and its aftereffects. Many members were affected both physically and mentally throughout these trying times. The Long Island Division is proud of every member as they perform such essential functions in their areas, for the public. Without the members, the Schools, Towns, Villages, Libraries and OTB/Jakes 58 would not be able to function. Long Island has grown in 2022 with new members and new areas, wanting our superior representation. We are happy to welcome all the new members as they have had no regrets coming aboard and looking back. Contracts, representation and overall caring for them is what we do for all. On Long Island it's a team effort by the Business Agents, L.I. Business Agent, Liaisons and Shop Stewards. We are a focused group that gets things done and I am proud of all. We look forward to working with each and every member in 2023, and wish all a Healthy and Happy 2023!

Benedict Carenza, Jr.

Director of the Long Island Division for Local 237 and Trustee on the Executive Board



As the New Year approaches, we look to a fresh start and a new beginning. It's a tradition held by many to spend some time reviewing the last year and make a resolution or a wish for the New Year. Lose weight, stop smoking, spend less money, listen to your spouse more are just some of the resolutions that top the list. We know when we make resolutions that, at best, are wishful thinking, they hold no penalties if they don't last. For sure, the most resolute thing about New Year's resolutions and wishes is that, although we make them with sincerity and plan to keep them in earnest when made, there's the sense that we can always make them next year again. In fact, 88% of New Year's resolutions fail — 80% of them are over, forgotten or just abandoned by March of the new year.

New Years is indeed a time during which many reflect on their lives — sometimes with regret — sometimes with anger about what went wrong — but more often with thanks and with hope for a better year ahead. There are always celebrities who have weighed-in with their New Year hopes, predictions, aspirations, and advice. Oprah Winfrey famously said: "Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right." Albert Einstein advised: "Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow." Maya Angelou noted: "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." Mark Twain suggested that: "New Year's Day is the accepted time to make your regular annual good resolutions. Next week you can begin paving hell with them as usual." John Lennon said: "Count your age by friends, not years. Count your life by smiles, not tears." Michelle Obama encouraged youngsters to: "Choose people in your life who lift you up." Mohammed Ali gave this advice: "I hated every minute of training. But I said, don't quit. Suffer now and live the rest of your life a champion." Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. counseled his followers to "Take the first step in faith — you don't need to see the whole staircase, just the first step." Or when Frank Sinatra sang: "The best is yet to come babe and won't it be fine. You think we've seen the sun but you ain't seen it shine." And even Dr. Seuss chimed in with this philosophical thought: "Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory."

With more than two years of the Coronavirus and its variants, many things have now changed forever. Despite signs that we're on the road to recovery, there is a new normal that remains, which for some, is anything but normal. Surely, so much is different, from the way we currently work and shop, to how we spend our leisure time. Some might say they preferred the pre-pandemic ways — like seeing a new movie at the local cinema and buying a gigantic tub of hot popcorn loaded with butter, instead of viewing it on Netflix on their iPad. Yet, here we are, 2023 knocking at the door and telling us it's time to move on. While some may question if the pandemic could possibly have had a "silver lining" — such as more time with family members — or perhaps even produced a profound sense of thanks or a reinvigorated feeling of joy for the simple pleasures that had been previously taken for granted or ignored, let's look to the future with hope. Here's how many at Local 237 are welcoming the New Year. ■

Greg Floyd and everyone at Teamsters Local 237 has done a phenomenal job over the past year. When it comes to advocating on behalf of the members, turning out the vote for pro-union political candidates, and negotiating some of the best collective bargaining agreements for public sector workers in the entire country, the work being done by this team is unparalleled. I look forward to continuing to support the amazing work being done by President Floyd and Local 237 — in 2023 and beyond.



Sean M. O'Brien

General President, International Brotherhood of Teamsters

Life is short. Live it to the fullest. To those who have always supported you — your family, friends, and colleagues — express your love. Especially cherish your children and spouse. It's also very important to take care of your health and to find peace of mind and maintain your dignity. To achieve these things, stop worrying about people who don't understand or appreciate what you do — avoid them and surround yourself with positive people. Happy holidays and all the best for the New Year.



Donald Arnold

Local 237 Executive Board Secretary/ Treasurer and Director of the Citywide Division

Like so many people, I am approaching 2023 with mixed feelings—a little glad and a little sad. I always feel glad to start something new with so many prospects for improvements ahead. But there's also some sadness too, knowing that with the year ending, the reliance on certain routines and some of the people who helped make them work, may require changes for the coming year. Fortunately for me, there is one happy constant: Two little boys, Mason almost 7 and Teddy almost 2. With "Happy Birthday" as their favorite song, and every dessert getting a candle, the New Year, through their eyes holds only hope and joy. Mason's expectations for a Lamborghini from Santa and his pride in reading from his textbook, or the excitement to hear Teddy's new words and watch him dance to "Bare Necessities" are the sort of simple pleasures easily overlooked or undervalued. My New Year's resolution, therefore, is to try to enjoy those things more. And my prayer for all of us, is that we have more of those moments and take more time to appreciate them.



Phyllis Shafran

Director of Communications and Political Coordinator

My New Year's resolution is to exercise, grow a vegetable garden and to drink more water. Eating healthy is my ultimate goal. I also plan not to sweat the small stuff and to live life to the fullest.



Kangel Moore

Local 237 Business Agent, Law Enforcement Division

Health
Happiness
Eat better

Charlie Cotto

Local 237 Business Agent, Law Enforcement Division



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

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, Thurs-
days only). General retirement
counseling and retirement plan-
ning series during spring and fall.
Julie Kobi, Director

LOCAL 237 DEPARTMENTS (Citywide and Housing)

SKILLED TRADES, 2nd Fl.

212-924-2000
Donald Arnold, Director

HEALTH AND SAFETY, 2nd Fl.

212-924-2000
Donald Arnold, Director
Susan McQuade, Coordinator

MEMBERS HEALTH, 2nd Fl.

212-924-2000
Susan McQuade, Director
smcquade@local237.org

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 Depart-
ment features free social work
services that are available to all
members. Social workers connect
people to much needed assistance
and resources. The union knows that
its members have tough jobs and
that when encountering tough per-
sonal challenges, learning about pos-
sible solutions to those challenges
would make things that much easier.
Contact us to learn about the many
service we can provide.
Karla Steinberg, Membership
Social Worker

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bers on covered personal legal prob-
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and separation), purchase and sale of
a primary residence, wills, adoptions,
credit and consumer problems, ten-
ant rights and bankruptcies.
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212-924-2000
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Ruben Torres,
Vice President
Donald Arnold,
Secretary-Treasurer

PERSONNEL, 5th Fl.

212-924-2000
Donald Arnold, Director and
Chief Negotiator

POLITICAL ACTION & LEGISLATION, 5th Fl.

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

GRIEVANCES/DISCIPLINARY PROBLEMS, 7th Fl.

212-924-2000
For grievances and job related
problems, first contact your
shop steward and/or grievance
representative. If they can't
resolve the issue, contact your
business agent.
Mal Patterson, Director of
Grievances and Hearings
Diana Doss, Esq.,
Grievance Coordinator

CIVIL SERVICE BAR ASSOC.

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
Local 237 Newsline and
Editor, Retiree News & Views
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-RETIREEES

NYCERS

(New York City Employees Retirement System)

By Mail:
335 Adams St., Suite 2300,
Brooklyn, NY 11201-3751

In Person:
340 Jay Street, Mezzanine,
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Gen'l Information:
347-643-3000

Outside NYC toll-free:
877-6NYCERS

NYCERS Internet

www.nyclink.org/html/nycers

NYC Department of Education Retirement System

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

Social Security Administration

800-772-1213

NY State and Local Retirement Systems

518-474-7736



A message from the President **Roving For Peace**

By Gregory Floyd

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

Recently, I was awarded the World Peace Prize and named "Roving Ambassador for Peace". This prestigious award was bestowed upon me by Father Sean McManus, President and Founder of the Washington-based Irish National Caucus. I am the first Teamster to be honored by this organization dedicated to social and labor justice. Fr. McManus said that I was "the perfect exemplar and role model for the World Peace Prize." WOW! It was an extraordinary moment that made me think: How exactly do you "rove for peace"? That's not so easy.

The awards ceremony was filled with noble talk on weighty issues. Father McManus spoke about their two main objectives: To assert the basic principle that peace is the fruit of justice and that working for peace means, in fact, working for social justice. And to firmly place the American labor movement in the category of those who have worked for peace — all the time, every day, year-after-year since the late 1800s. He went on to quote from several biblical scholars and members of the clergy who support the notion that working for justice is required for those with faith in God or those people simply of good will. He mentioned that Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. loved to quote the Prophet Amos, who said: "Let justice roll down like water, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream." Fr. McManus said that even "people of no faith and no religion—but of good will— can agree in principle with these words. All people of good will, all fair-minded people, recognize that without justice, civilized society cannot stand; fair treatment cannot stand; fair employment cannot stand; and a just and living wage cannot stand. That is how central and basic social justice is. It unites people of faith who want to do God's work on earth —and it unites people of no faith who want to do the fair and decent thing.

Upon receiving a plaque and medal at the awards ceremony, I addressed the audience, telling them: "To receive an award inspired by the work of some of America's greatest leaders in social and labor justice — like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka — is humbling. They believed that labor justice and social justice are forever intertwined. You can't have one without the other. But equality, respect and compassion should not only be workplace goals, but also everyday goals of humanity. Dr. King perhaps expressed it best when he said: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." Dr. King also said: "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." How well that fits the mission of the World Peace Foundation, which is to NOT remain silent in the face of threats to justice



On November 15, Teamsters Local 237 President Gregory Floyd was awarded the World Peace Prize and named "Roving Ambassador For Peace". The prestigious award was bestowed upon him by Father Sean McManus, President and Founder of the Washington-based Irish National Caucus and Chief Judge of the World Peace Prize and Barbara Flaherty, Judge of the World Peace Prize and Chair of the Presentation Ceremony. President Floyd was cited as "the perfect exemplar and role model for the World Peace Prize."

and peace. And it is the mission of labor unions, like Teamsters Local 237, NOT to be silent either."

So now that I am entrusted with a mighty title and lofty assignment, questions remain: How does one "rove for peace"? Is it something you actively look for like a missing puzzle piece? And where do you search? Is peace something you can create like a painting? Is it something you can achieve alone, or does it require collaboration? And perhaps the biggest question: Once you've found it, what's the next step? Beatle John Lennon had a suggestion when he famously wrote the song verse "Give peace a chance." The irony here, of course, is that this is now etched in stone in Central Park, where he was assassinated. Clearly, roving for peace is complicated. Perhaps the job needs to be broken-down into parts: A sort of micro/macro distinction of personal peace and world peace. Peace of mind can be derived from the satisfaction found in offering kindness and compassion to others... feeling good about yourself because you helped someone — especially someone in need. World peace is trickier, and requires a bigger operation, yet starts by voting and helping to elect people who are admirable and worthy of our trust — people who seek public office not for personal gain but instead, as Father McManus said, "people of principles who just want to do the decent thing." Macro peace therefore can only be achieved by those who will lead us with an unwavering commitment to justice and fairness.

Clearly, the job of a "Roving Ambassador for Peace" is to identify people of good will, inspired by Spike Lee's advice to "do the right thing", and encourage them to get involved. ■

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Above and Beyond

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

Quick Action Keeps Students Safe



(l-r) **Agent Harris** and **Agent Franklin**. On 11/10 at the Queens North Community HS (located in the Queens South command) a student was shot and killed on the corner during dismissal. School Safety Agents Harris and Franklin were outside, and upon hearing the shots, they gathered up the children and brought them back into the building for a hard lockdown. Their quick action prevented any other innocent students from being harmed.

SSA Saves the day at LIC High School



In October, at Long Island City High School, **Level 3 SSA Reggie Cleveland** seized a razor blade and a fully loaded 9mm gun that resulted in the arrest of the student perpetrator.

Mayor and Chancellor Acknowledge Valor of School Safety Agent



Mayor Adams and **Chancellor Banks** recognized **School Safety Agent Natalia Podolskaya** for her bravery in protecting students at PS 28 in Queens from a deranged person. Agent Podolskaya sustained injury as a result of subduing the perpetrator. She is back at work and was congratulated for her valor. **Business Agents Derek Short, Kangela Moore, Deputy Inspector Taylor** and **Queens North Commander Rangel** are present in the pictures, along with the Mayor and Chancellor.

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

Local 237 Newsline (USPS 700-000 ISSN 1083-3536) is published quarterly by Local 237, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, 216 West 14 Street, New York, NY 10011. Periodical postage paid at New York, NY. Postmaster: Send address changes to Local 237 Newsline, 216 West 14th Street, New York, NY 10011.

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Phyllis S. Shafran
Editor

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

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



THANK YOU! SSA MATTERA



When a 14 year-old student was shot in the ankle across the street from Staten Island's Tottenville High School, **School Safety Agent Ill Peter Mattera** jumped into action. As the assailants were fleeing the scene, SSA Mattera rushed to the wounded victim and administered first aid, including a vital tourniquet, all while ignoring personal danger. A sincere "Thank You" to SSA Mattera, for his bravery as demonstrated by selflessly putting himself in harms' way to help a student victimized by gun violence.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

NYCHA Workers

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:

Getting it Done — NYCHA Members Making a Difference in Workplace Safety

The issues at NYCHA, the largest public housing development in the country, are numerous. But that has not stopped our members from taking action to make their places safer, for themselves, their co-workers and the residents.

Vanessa Hayward, the Supervisor of Caretakers at Carver Houses for the past two years, notes that “the safety of my staff and the residents at the development are my top priority.”

Homelessness and electric bikes have been major problems at her development, and she has tackled these issues head on. “I have been working on bettering these conditions for two years. I always see homeless people as humans first. I know that everyone has a story. So, it was important for me that everyone is safe and gets help. When there are reports from the staff of homeless in the buildings, the NYPD is called to send officers to walk through the building and remove the homeless. “With the help of the union, NYPD’s Police Service Area 5, and NYCHA’s Office of Safety and Security we have been able to make Carver a much safer place.” The hazards associated with electric bikes has also been a concern, and Hayward has worked closely with her staff and the police to remove all motorized bikes that are parked in front of buildings, in hallways and in staircases throughout the development.

“It is important for these issues to be addressed,” notes Hayward, “because when I was a caretaker, we faced the same issues. As a supervisor, it’s my responsibility to concern myself with the safety of the workers. I want them to return home the same way they came. I don’t ever want to have to make a call to someone’s parents telling them that something happened to them.”

“My advice to other SOC’s who are facing some of the same problems is to protect your staff, reach out to the union, call on your local police officers, and inform the Office of Safety and Security. And be consistent. It takes time, but things can and do get better.” **Dashawn Robinson**, a new Safety Associate at Taft Houses, has seen changes when people speak up. “Before I started as a Safety Associate, I didn’t think things could change. At first, it was tough, but once I



Vanessa Hayward



Dashawn Robinson



Steven Maestre

started to have weekly meetings with my supervisors, they took these issues more seriously, and things got fixed,” noted Robinson. And that has changed others’ attitudes. “People feel more secure when they see things being done, and now they are more willing to bring attention to other issues, because they now know that things can get better if we bring them out in the open.”

The key to this success, according to Robinson, is teamwork. “Nobody can do this alone; you need supervisors assisting the safety associates and all the staff to take these issues seriously, and that’s how problems are solved. When everyone understands that safety is the priority, people can work together to take action and find the solution to making it safer for everyone,” said Robinson.

Steven Maestre, Caretaker J at Morris Houses, knows the importance of teamwork when it comes to safety. “I work closely with all the staff and all the supervisors to get these concerns addressed, because safety is a real priority at my development,” notes Maestre. In his three years as a Safety Associate, he and the staff have built a culture of safety at his site. He focuses on working with all the supervisory staff when issues are reported to him, and that approach has been a success. “We all work together to get things done quickly here, we don’t wait around to take care of safety,” says Maestre. “We recently had a leak into a slop sink from a resident’s apartment. At times, those issues can take longer to fix, because it involves private living space, but with quick action by our supervisors, the job is done right away, because safety is always first.”

The monthly Safety Congress meetings in each borough are a reflection of that commitment to safety and the benefits of teamwork, and those locations where supervision makes safety a priority is easy to see. “We know that working as a team brings the best results,” notes **Carl Giles**, Local 237’s Housing Division Director. “When we see things reported on the log, work orders have been generated, and the safety associate reports that issues have been resolved, we know that their concerns are taken seriously, and that staff and their supervisors are making it a priority to make those locations safer for everyone.”



“Safety has to be everyone’s responsibility...everyone needs to know that they are empowered to speak up if there’s an issue.”

Tiffany Miller, Caretaker J
Gompers Houses



“Safety is everyone’s business so it doesn’t become everyone’s problem.”

Troy Scott, Maintenance
Wagner Houses



“Going above and beyond to make sure that my peers and I can work safely is my goal. We need to make it home to our families at the end of the day!”

Destiny Level, Caretaker J
Dyckman Houses



Our proud Housing Assistants and Assistant Managers of 1 Fordham Plaza central office.



Let’s congratulate **Sean Benn** on his promotion to Supervisor of Caretakers at Claremont Houses.



Housing Director **Carl Giles** presented a plaque of appreciation to **Fatima Smith** as a loyal supporter of Local 237. In 10 years, she has been a storeroom keep, caretaker X, heating plant technician and a maintenance person. She is currently a Housing Assistant who has passed the assistant manager’s test, and has supported the union through all titles.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Citywide 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:



Stock Worker assigned to CUNY-Kingsborough.



Adolfo Redillo Maintenance Worker and Shop Steward for Queens NYPD, with **George Wade** and **Curtis Scott** on left and **Bianca Jones** on right.



Armando Candelaria, Bridge Operator, and **Bianca Jones** on right.



Brandon Simpson, DOT Marine Special Officer Supervisor.



Cooks **Cheryl Roberts** and **Kevin Chambers**.



HHC, South Brooklyn EKG Technicians, Telemetry Department with **George Wade** and **Bianca Jones** on left and **Curtis Scott** on right.



Bridge Operators, Pelham Bay Bridge with Business Agent **Curtis Scott** (c).



Maintenance Staff assigned to Prospect Park Parks Department.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg Hospital



New hospital next to Coney Island Hospital will open at the beginning of next year! **George Wade** and **Curtis Scott** were on hand to take a preliminary look at the new facility.



(l-r) **George Wade**, Assistant Director/Business Agent and **Richard Pratts**, Shop Steward, soon to be Level 4 Radiologic Tech at Lincoln Hospital.



(l-r) Voice for Veterans reception. **Bianca Jones**, Citywide Business Agent; **Donald Arnold**, Local 237 Executive Board Secretary/Treasurer and Citywide Director; **Renee Campion**, Commissioner, NYC Office of Labor Relations; and **Curtis Scott**, Local 237 Executive Board Trustee and Citywide Business Agent.



Maintenance workers at Elmhurst Hospital. (l-r) **Dinsal Ramnarain**, **Rennisan Dass**, **Hayden Campo** with **George Wade**.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

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:



At Cancer Awareness Month School Safety Staten Island Command. (Back row) **SSA 3 Joe Di-gioia**; **Jeanette Taveras**, Recording Secretary Local 237; **SSA 3 Jasmine Cruz**; and **CO James Sherrod**. (Front row) **SSA 1 Linda Costanzo**; **SSA 1 Matisha Isreal**; **SSA 1 Danielle Caserta**; and **SSA 1 Alyssa Williams**.



Campus Officers at LaGuardia Community College wear pink to raise awareness of Breast Cancer Month. (l-r) **PO Wallace**, **PO Harris**, **Sgt Rue**, **CSA Castillo**, **LT Hall**, **PO Owens** and **PO Gonzalez**.



SSA Shawnta Alston at Pre-K Center Safety Lesson for the students learning about the importance of school safety.



(l-r) **62 Pct. Brooklyn Studio crew**. **L3 Collazo**, **L1 Magistro** and **SSS Wiggins**.



Henry J. Carter Specialty Hospital & Nursing Facility Hospital Police Officers create awareness for Breast Cancer Month by sporting Pink uniforms. **Captain Alago**, **P.O Farrow**, **Sgt. Jusino**, **PO George** and **Chief Hart**.



SSA Shawnta Alston (r) attended the making strides cancer walk on Sunday, October 16th 2022 with co-worker **SSA1 Carrasco**.



Staten Island celebrates Happy Birthday to **SSS Holt** (r) and good luck to **SSA Perez** on his new journey.



Bronx East SSAs celebrate hard work and longevity.



SSAIII Gregory Richardson Funeral, Queens South Command.



Thank you **SSA Sara Kinh** and **SSA Sylvia King** from the Bronx East for your dedication to **IS 174** students. **El Maestro Barber Shop** donated 5 hair cuts because of your work in the school community.

TLC COMMENCEMENT



Class of 2022A: **Solomon K Addison-Simmons**, **Ahasanul Azim**, **Tatiana G Cabezas Del Orbe**, **Ben I. Colon**, **Benjamin Cruz**, **Oumar Dansoko**, **Yunfei Huang**, **Nivek A Justice**, **Anthony Liriano** (Salutatorian), **Sergio Medina Jr.**, **Kombi-ako Mensah**, **Kashana L Mondesir**, **Anthony S. Roberts**, **Johan M. Tejada**, **Randy Veliz** (Valedictorian) and **Jones Wren**.



Derek Jackson addresses the graduating class of 16 at TLC.

DHS/ACS GRADUATION



10-13-22 with **Derek Jackson** on the left and **Charlie Cotto** on the right.

DHS Police Graduates: **Keisia Alvarez**, **Mario Cadavid-Tobin**, **Preston Chaney**, **Natifa Charles**, **Sakina Doyle**, **Dara Green**, **Veronica Love**, **Keisha McDonald**, **Tasha Mills**, **Krystal Nixon**, **Ruben Perez**, **Jada Persad**, **Joshua Pita**, **Aidian Roche**, **Bernice Rosado**, **Richard Rosario**, **Lorie Simpkins**, **Jose Tejada**, **Bashir Wright** and **Donetta Yelder**.



(l-r) **Derek Jackson**, Director - Law Enforcement Division; **Martha Bodhnarain, Esq.**, Senior Counsel; **Richard Rosario**, Valedictorian; **Aidan Roche**, Salutatorian; **Charlie Cotto**, Business Agent.



(l-r) **Martha Bodhnarain, Esq.**, Senior Counsel; **Jada Persad**, graduate; **Harry Persad**, Lt. - Bridges and Tunnels, father of the graduate; **Charlie Cotto**, Business Agent.



NY Mets pitcher **Edwin Diaz** greeting students at Longwood Prep in early October. (l-r) **SSA Harcourt Tynes**, **SSA 3 Juana Gonzalez**, **SSA 3 Jose Rivera**, **SSA Milton Valdez**, **SSA Jason Jacobs**.



Shop Steward Saarah Adu Gyamfi (l) an officer at Jacob Javits Convention Center with Director **Derek Jackson** of the Law Enforcement Division.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

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:



From Recruits to Grads. On December 23, **60 Hospital Police** recruits graduated after 13 weeks of vigorous training. They will work in public hospitals throughout the five boroughs. We wish them well and thank them for their service.



SSA's from Bronx East met in support of **SSA Hector Garcia**. (l-r) **SSA Dillinger Juan**, **SSA Sara King**, **Elmira Gomez**, **SSA Wanda Gonzalez**, **SSS Nicole Craig**, **SSS Persausa Branch**, **SSA Micheal Gonzalez**.



Queens DCAS officer **Sgt. Jones** and **PO Galazka** at Queens DCAS Testing site keeping everyone safe working the magnetometer.

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:



Retirees from NYCHA. (l-r) **Anthony Ruggerio**, 25 years of service, Supervisor of Roofers; **Giorgio Pennino**, 26 years of service Supervisor of Bricklayers; **Vito Tamburello**, 23 years of service, Bricklayers; and **James Pietrafesa**, 33 years of service, Bricklayers.



James Paolilli, 24 Years of service, NYPD maintenance worker.



James Perkewicz, 20.5 Years of service, NYPD maintenance worker.



Nisar Ibrahim, 17 Years of service, NYPD maintenance worker.



Hunter College Sgt. Raymond Santos, having served for more than 29 years, has retired. Wishing him well is his wife Gloria (to his left) and members of Local 237's Executive Board (l-r): **Donald Arnold**, Secretary/Treasurer; **Jeanette Taveras**, Recording Secretary; and **Ruben Torres**, Vice President.



Roger Phillips Sr, 33 Years of service, NYPD maintenance worker.



Bastian Andrew, 22.5 Years of service, NYPD maintenance worker.



Eric Williams, Maintenance Worker, retired from Bronx River Houses, 29 Years of service,



Salvatore Fazzolari, retired maintenance worker at the Department of Education, received a retirement plaque on behalf of Local 237 from **Donald Arnold**, Executive Board Secretary/Treasurer and Director of the Citywide Division.



Congratulations **Officer Teresita B. Lettera**! She retired on October 30, 2022 at Jacob Javits Convention Center with 27 Years of Service. (l-r) **Assistant Director of Law Enforcement Charlie Cotto** with **Officer Teresita B. Lettera** and **Senior Vice President of Human Resources and Labor Christine McMahon** at the Jacob Javits Convention Center.



Housing Director Carl Giles presented a retirement plaque to **Kim Vereen**, who retired after 30 years of service.



Local 237 President Gregory Floyd Named “ROVING AMBASSADOR FOR PEACE”

An honor given to people of good will working for justice

On November 15, Local 237 President Gregory Floyd was awarded the World Peace Prize and named: “Roving Ambassador for Peace”. The prestigious award was bestowed by Father Sean McManus, President and Founder of the Washington-based Irish National Caucus and Chief Judge of the World Peace Prize and Barbara Flaherty, Judge of the World Peace Prize and Chair of the Presentation Ceremony. President Floyd was the first Teamster to be honored by this organization dedicated to social and labor justice. In his remarks, Fr. McManus said Floyd was “the perfect exemplar and role model for the World Peace Prize.”

At the awards ceremony Fr. McManus spoke about their two main objectives: To assert the basic principle that peace is the fruit of justice and that working for peace means working for social justice. And to firmly place the American Labor Movement in the category of those who work for peace—all the time, every day, year after year since the late 1800s.” Father McManus’ remarks quoted from several biblical scholars and members of the clergy who support the notion that working for justice is required for those with faith in God and simply those people of good will. He quoted the Islamic scholar, Ajmal Masroor, who said: “Standing firm for justice is considered closest to Godliness. In other words, my religious and social responsibility is to work for just causes. In my faith, I am required to stand witness to justice, fairness, and equality not just in words but in practice.” Fr. McManus reminded us that Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. taught that peace is the result of justice, and Pope John Paul II said: “peace is the fruit of solidarity.” Fr. McManus added that even “people of no faith and no religion — but of good will — can agree with these principles.”

Father McManus described how Richard Trumka, the late, great President of the AFL-CIO eagerly jumped at the idea of having members of the labor movement World Peace Prize recipients. Trumka was the first labor leader to receive the World Peace Prize and proceeded to promote it as a powerful way to advance labor and encourage solidarity. Trumka even suggested Floyd as a future recipient.

When Teamsters General President Sean O’Brien learned that President Floyd was being chosen for the honor, he stated: “On behalf of the 1.3 million members of International Brotherhood of Teamsters—as well as our General Executive Board—I want to congratulate Greg for receiving this award. We applaud this organization’s mission of connecting labor’s fight for justice with the fight for justice on many other fronts. Greg has been fighting on behalf of working families his entire life and is deserving of this honor.”

Upon receiving a plaque and medal at the awards ceremony, Ambassador Floyd addressed the audience of friends and colleagues, including many fellow Teamsters.

He said: “To receive an award inspired by the work of some of America’s greatest leaders in social and labor justice — like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka — is humbling. They believed that labor justice and social justice are forever intertwined. You can’t have one without the other. Equality, respect, and compassion should not only be workplace goals, but also everyday goals of humanity. Dr. King perhaps expressed it best when he said: “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere,” later adding that: “Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.” How well that fits in with the mission of the World Peace Foundation, which is to NOT remain silent in the face of threats to justice and peace. And it is the mission of labor unions, like Teamsters Local 237 NOT to be silent either. To help ease the struggles of hard-working men and women is an honor in and of itself. And to receive an award for that effort allows all people, and especially those of us in the labor movement, know that our efforts are recognized and valued. I thank you Father McManus and Barbara Flaherty for this honor and for the work this dynamic organization has done, work that has had a positive impact on the lives of so many workers. I particularly recall that, as a NYCERS Trustee, we supported the NYC Comptroller at the time, Bill Thompson, and his efforts on behalf of the MacBride Principles, which set a code of conduct for American companies doing business in Northern Ireland. That effort was launched by the Irish National Caucus on November 5, 1984. The principles became New York City, State and Federal law, and are now regarded as the most successful campaign ever against anti-Catholic discrimination in employment.”

President Floyd added a humorous, heart-felt story about his first of only two encounters with Richard Trumka. It was during a very long car ride together to Pennsylvania for a labor convention. Eventually the conversation turned to a discussion of Penn State football. Floyd’s father-in-law was a huge fan, but never got to see a game in person. Trumka, a member of the College Board, later sent Floyd two tickets. Wow, he thought: What a terrific chance to be a hero at home and also go to a great game! Floyd and his father-in-law saw the game....Penn State was trounced 20-0 by Michigan State but that wasn’t the worst of it. The cars of the 100,000 spectators all had to exit through a single lane on a residential side street, which took more than three hours — a ride that was longer than when Floyd first met with Trumka.

President Floyd concluded by thanking his friends and colleagues — including many fellow Teamsters —for taking the time to attend the ceremony, saying that he looks forward to “continuing to connect with people of good will, like those gathered together today”.

Photographs taken by Curtis Scott and Ken Roper.



(l-r) Derek Jackson, Director of the Law Enforcement Division; Kathy Rice, Trustee, Local 237's Executive Board and LI Business Agent ; Jeanette Taveras, Recording Secretary, Local 237's Executive Board and Law Enforcement Business Agent; Donald Arnold, Secretary/Treasurer, Local 237's Executive Board and Director of the Citywide Division; Thomas Gesualdi, President, Teamsters Joint Council 16; Honoree, Local 237 President, Gregory Floyd; Fr McManus, World Peace Prize and Irish Caucus Chairman; Demos Demopoulos, Secretary/Treasurer, Joint Council 16; Matthew Brucoleri, Trustee, Joint Council 16; Curtis Scott, Trustee, Local 237's Executive Board and Citywide Business Agent; Benny Carenza, Trustee, Local 237's Executive Board and Director of the Long Island Division; Barbara Flaherty World Peace Prize and Irish Caucus Executive Director.



LONG ISLAND REPORT



Sean Dimperio from Brentwood schools drilling through 14 inch concrete to run the electric, for a new sign and then backfilling the lines at South Middle School.



Teamster **Sammy Acevedo** keeps his Brentwood school impeccable at all times for the students and staff. He takes much pride in his work everyday. Great work by you and the crew Sammy!



Local 237 members from both the Buildings & Grounds Division of the Department of Public Works and the Town of Babylon Parks Department have all worked hard to set-up the displays at Town Hall for the 2022 holiday season. They did amazing work for the community at this drive-through event!



Proud to be invited to the Plainview-Old Bethpage board recognition night. Representing the custodial, maintenance, grounds, aides and security guards, Local 237 praised the members of the board, noting that they appreciate all the hard work the members provide, caring for the children, and keeping everything sanitized and safe for all.



Ron Roessel retires as a bus driver from North Babylon schools after 19 years on the job. Ron will be missed by his coworkers and we wish him luck!



John Gallagher presents a retirement plaque to **Casey Rock** who is retiring from Half Hollow Hills School after 27 years on the job.



Commack Teamster **Sean Fitzsimmons** (c) retires after 27 years on the job. **John Gallagher** and **Todd Raplee** presented him with a plaque. Congrats!

POLITICAL AND LABOR NEWS



Accomplishments and the Year Ahead for CSBA

By Saul Fishman
CSBA President

As 2022 gives way to 2023, we pause to reflect on where we have been, to acknowledge and give thanks for what we have accomplished, and to rededicate ourselves to achieving the important and often difficult tasks which remain on our agenda.

Let's start with the positive. Our fight to abolish any residency requirement for our titles, the Agency Attorneys and Agency Attorney Interns, has finally been won! We refused to back down at the bargaining table, persisted in the media, and common-sense prevailed. No longer will we have to hear on the one hand that they are so desperate to bring in attorneys to do our work that they are reaching out for (a handful) of big law firm "pro bono" attorneys, and yet that we were somehow not a difficult to recruit title. So effective immediately, you can live anywhere, including New Jersey, Connecticut and Pennsylvania, so long as you can get to work on time. A word of caution: We suggest that you fully explore the tax ramifications before moving to another jurisdiction.

Other positives include getting the Police Department to cease violating our contract by forcing members to sign-in and out (we were coming before the arbitrator when they saw the error of their ways). Ditto their written agreement to bring any "Assistant Counsels" into our bargaining unit.

Abolishing residency restrictions clearly makes 2022 historic for us. But there's a lot of heavy lifting ahead, with no predictable short-

term timeline. We remain adamant about the need for some degree of remote work. Mind you, we're not talking about five days per week, but are tirelessly advocating for two to three days per week. This will put us on similar footing (or almost similar footing) with our peers in the private and not-for-profit sectors, employers who are actively recruiting and to whom our licenses make us readily marketable.

Expanding the availability of compressed time schedule options with flexible arrival time, as recently implemented for our members at the Department of Correction, is another high priority. Indeed, our last contract established the ability by agencies to get started, and we will be aggressively encouraging its widespread adoption in our non-economic bargaining sessions, which are scheduled to resume around the time this article is published.

Without question, most of us have been stretched to the breaking point, and the city needs to replace many of our departed colleagues. The work has not gone away, indeed in many instances, it has only increased in both volume and complexity. And if it doesn't get done correctly and in a timely manner, NYC citizens will suffer further delays, and lawsuits against the city will further proliferate. **Note to City: residency waiver + improved salaries (both starting salaries and a step pay plan) + remote work options = the formula needed to resolve the crisis our titles are experiencing!** ■

Boy Scouts of America, Greater New York Councils 37th Annual Salute to Labor Luncheon

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



Boy Scouts administer the Scouts' Pledge.



Master of Ceremonies, Local 237 President, Gregory Floyd.



Chief Executive Officer, Greater New York Councils of Boy Scouts of America, Saroja Friedman-Gonzalez



Gregory Floyd; Bob Layng Jr.; Scout speaker, Jordan Hoating Troop 5; presenter Joseph Dorismond, RWDSU Recorder and Kyle Bragg.



Kyle Bragg, President 32BJ SEIU, Good Scout Award recipient and presenter, Vincent Alvarez, President, New York City Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO.

The Legislative Year in Review and the Year Ahead

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

As the year is coming to a close, The New York City council has continued in its legislative momentum. The following are several pieces of legislation to monitor that may have an impact on the lives of our members and their families:

Yr	Bill No.	Type	Status	Committee	Prime Sponsor (current)	"Name"
2022	Int 0003	Introduction	Committee	Education	Ayala, Diana I.	Police department's response to students in emotional crisis in public schools.
2022	Int 0024	Introduction	Committee	Governmental Operations	Holden, Robert F.	Establishing and maintaining an online tool for measuring performance of city agencies.
2022	Int 0039	Introduction	Committee	General Welfare	Borelli, Joseph	Use of non-deadly physical force in self-defense by a peace officer or security guard at a shelter.
2022	Int 0078	Introduction	Committee	Civil Service and Labor	Brewer, Gale A.	Creating an informational campaign concerning workers' rights under the earned safe and sick time act.
2022	Int 0098	Introduction	Committee	Public Safety	Brannan, Justin L.	Reimbursing small nonpublic schools for the cost of security guard services.
2022	Int 0099	Introduction	Committee	Public Safety	Brannan, Justin L.	Establishing a program to provide public notification of school emergencies.
2022	Int 0115	Introduction	Laid Over in Committee	Housing and Buildings	Hudson, Crystal	Minimum temperatures required to be maintained in dwellings.
2022	Int 0142	Introduction	Committee	Public Housing	Ayala, Diana I.	Requiring the NYPD to make crime statistics at each NYCHA operated housing development available through the department's website, as well as making other crime information regarding such housing developments available to the city council.
2022	Int 0157	Introduction	Committee	Education	Dinowitz, Eric	Requiring annual reports on employment turnover of school safety agents and other school safety personnel.
2022	Int 0209	Introduction	Committee	Civil and Human Rights	Abreu, Shaun	Prohibiting discrimination on the basis of a person's height or weight in opportunities of employment, housing, and access to public accommodations.
2022	Int 0232	Introduction	Committee	Women and Gender Equity	De La Rosa, Carmen N.	Establishment of a task force to study the gender pay disparity and economic self-sufficiency among the labor force in the city.
2022	Int 0293	Introduction	Laid Over in Committee	Transportation and Infrastructure	Stevens, Althea V.	DOT to establish a program to allow community centers, schools, arts and cultural institutions and religious institutions to use adjacent outdoor spaces.

2022	Int 0301	Introduction	Laid Over in Committee	Oversight and Investigations	Won, Julie	Establishment of standards and procedures to determine the existence of conflicts of interest and other misconduct concerning city contracts.
2022	Int 0396	Introduction	Committee	Health	Holden, Robert F.	Remediating lead water hazards in schools and facilities providing day care services.
2022	Int 0416	Introduction	Committee	Fire and Emergency Management	Williams (PA)	Establishing an emergency student food plan.
2022	Int 0422	Introduction	Committee	Civil and Human Rights	Restler, Lincoln	Requiring covered entities to maintain a record of requests from persons requesting a reasonable accommodation.
2022	Int 0425	Introduction	Committee	Health	Rivera, Carlina	Campaign by the department of health and mental hygiene to increase awareness of and enrollment in health insurance by low-wage workers, and reporting in relation thereto.
2022	Int 0431	Introduction	Committee	General Welfare	Salamanca, Jr., Rafael	Requiring the dept of homeless services to provide customer service training.
2022	Int 0453	Introduction	Laid Over in Committee	Oversight and Investigations	Powers, Keith	Requiring officers and employees of city contractors to report corruption and to cooperate with the DOI.
2022	Int 0508	Introduction	Laid Over in Committee	Health	Schulman, Lynn C.	Requiring family building benefits for city employees.
2022	Int 0515	Introduction	Laid Over in Committee	Civil and Human Rights	Adams (Speaker)	Agency diversity plans, salary data and comparable worth analyses.
2022	Int 0522	Introduction	Committee	General Welfare	Botcher, Eric D.	Requiring mental health professionals in families with children shelters.
2022	Int 0527	Introduction	Laid Over in Committee	Civil Service and Labor	De La Rosa, Carmen N.	Evaluation and expansion of diverse recruitment and retention within the municipal government.
2022	Int 0541	Introduction	Laid Over in Committee	Civil Service and Labor	Louis, Farah N.	Amending the reporting of pay and employment equity data.
2022	Int 0543	Introduction	Committee	Public Safety	Narcisse, Mercedes	Establishing protocols for responding to students experiencing mental health crises.
2022	Int 0550	Introduction	Committee	Public Housing	Williams (PA)	Creation of a task force to study, report on, and make recommendations to improve NYCHA's engagement with tenants and to address tenant concerns about safety and quality of life.
2022	Int 0554	Preconsidered Introduction	Committee	General Welfare	Rivera, Carlina	Child protective caseloads and workloads action plan.

POLITICAL AND LABOR NEWS

Continued from page 12

2022	Int 0555	Preconsidered Introduction	Committee	Transportation and Infrastructure	Rivera, Carlina	Installing safety signs near schools.
2022	Int 0561	Introduction	Committee	General Welfare	Adams (Speaker)	Establishing a guaranteed income pilot program.
2022	Int 0563	Introduction	Committee	Civil Service and Labor	Brewer, Gale A.	Provision of sick time earned by employees.
2022	Int 0569	Introduction	Committee	Immigration	Hanif, Shahana K.	An immigrant workers' bill of rights.
2022	Int 0597	Introduction	Committee	Education	Vernikov, Inna	Security cameras in New York city public schools.
2022	Int 0604	Introduction	Committee	Transportation and Infrastructure	Abreu, Shaun	Establishing priority for sidewalk repairs at developments operated by the NYCHA.
2022	Int 0617	Introduction	Committee	Civil Service and Labor	Hanif, Shahana K.	Earned Safe and Sick Time Act
2022	Int 0641	Introduction	Committee	General Welfare	Williams, Nantash a M.	Maximizing efficiency at department of social services/ human resources administration centers.
2022	Int 0642	Introduction	Committee	General Welfare	Williams, Nantash a M.	Quarterly reporting by the administration for children's services on the amount of time children spend in the children's center or temporary placement facilities.
2022	Int 0677	Introduction	Committee	Civil Service and Labor	Joseph, Rita C.	Health insurance for city employees.
2022	Int 0717	Introduction	Committee	Civil Service and Labor	De La Rosa, Carmen N.	Provision of union membership guidance for public-sector employees in NYC.
2022	Int 0779	Introduction	Committee	General Welfare	Williams (PA)	Creation of a taskforce to study improving safety in homeless shelters.
2022	Int 0780	Introduction	Committee	General Welfare	Williams (PA)	Establishing a commission to develop a citywide shelter siting plan for implementation by the department of homeless services and social services.
2022	Res 0003	Resolution	Committee	Education	Brannan, Justin L.	DOE to install vape detectors in NYC public schools.
2022	Res 0013	Resolution	Committee	Education	Louis, Farah	Dept of Education to partner with nonprofit organizations to provide on-site pro bono legal assistance at schools to help students and their families with housing issues.
2022	Res 0068	Resolution	Laid Over in Committee	Public Housing	Kagan, Ari	Increase NYCHA accountability by auditing the responsiveness of NYCHA managers to tenants.
2022	Res 0096	Resolution	Committee	Health	Rivera, Carlina	Expand Medicaid benefits to one year postpartum. (S.1411B/A.307B)
2022	Res 0105	Resolution	Committee	Public Housing	Avilés, Alexa	NYCHA Utility Accountability Act (A.1866/S.1603)
2022	Res 0108	Resolution	Committee	Civil Service and Labor	Borelli, Joseph C.	Calling on the Mayor of NYC and all private employers in NYC to re-hire all employees fired due to non-compliance with COVID-19 vaccination mandates.
2022	Res 0164	Resolution	Committee	Education	Lee, Linda	Establish Diwali as an official holiday for NYC public school students.
2022	Res 0234	Resolution	Committee	Health	Ayala, Diana I.	Allows the presence of epinephrine auto-injector devices on pre-school premises. (S.723A/A.3821)
2022	Res 0257	Resolution	Committee	Civil Service and Labor	Cabán, Tiffany	Expressing solidarity with unionization drives across New York City's workforce and affirming the right to have union elections free from anti-democratic union-busting practices.
2022	Res 0286	Resolution	Committee	Environmental Protection	Brannan, Justin L.	Corporate and government entities operating in NYC to divest from agricultural industries that benefit from deforestation and the acceleration of global warming.
2022	Res 0341	Resolution	Committee	Contracts	Paladino, Vickie	Prohibit the alteration of terms and conditions of employment for all employees during a state disaster emergency.

IN OTHER NEWS:

General Election Results

To round out what was an especially active voting year for New Yorkers, the nation headed to the polls on Tuesday, November 8, 2022 to place their votes. Below are the results of key state-wide races:

Governor/Lieutenant Governor

In what was an incredibly tight race until the very end, Kathy Hochul defeated Lee Zeldin with about 53% of the vote, becoming the first woman elected as Governor of New York. Antonio Delgado will serve as the Lieutenant Governor.

State Comptroller

With 56% of the vote, Tom DiNapoli defeated challenger Paul Rodriguez. Having served since 2007, this will be DiNapoli's fifth term.

Attorney General

Letitia James defeated Michael Henry with 54% of the vote, securing her second term as New York State's Attorney General.

United States Senator

United States Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer landed a decisive victory over long-shot opponent Joe Pinion with over 56% of the vote, securing his fifth term as United States Senator from New York while also retaining the Democratic majority in the Senate ahead of the Georgia run-off election.

City Worker Shortage

On November 14, 2022, New York State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli released an "Update on New York City Staffing Trends," a report monitoring the ebbs and flows of the largest municipal workforce in the United States. In his report, the Comptroller has several notable findings. Citing unusually high levels of attrition and hiring issues, the report found that New York City has lost more than 19,000 full-time employees in the last two years. This incredible decline has been felt most in the uniformed agencies (including the Departments of Correction and Investigation), the Department of Education, and the social services agencies (such as the Department of Social Services). Additionally, as of August 2022, the city has over 21,000 vacancies – about a 7% vacancy rate. These findings come as New York City continues to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and are poised to continue to inform city policy. The report can be read in its entirety here. <https://www.osc.state.ny.us/files/reports/osdc/pdf/report-13-2023.pdf>

Mayor Eric Adams's Budget Modification

In a letter sent to every New York City agency on September 12, 2022 (and ahead of the November Financial Plan), Mayor Eric Adams instructed agency commissioners to cut their spending plans by 3% this fiscal year (ending on June 30, 2023) and 4.75% for each of the following three years. This Program to Eliminate the Gap (PEG) came in response to the onset of a weakening economic forecast for the city - in part due COVID-19 recovery, growing pension contributions, expiring labor collective bargaining agreements, and rising healthcare costs - and is expected to save the city over \$2.5 billion by June 2024.

The November Financial Plan, which was released on November 15, 2023, saw New York City's budget grow from the record-setting \$101 billion in the adopted budget to \$104 billion. The Mayor touted savings from the aforementioned PEGs and the plan promised minimal effects on service delivery.

Despite certain agencies not meeting their savings goals, such as the NYPD and Department of Sanitation, Mayor Adams remains confident that we will see further closing of these budget gaps through continuing to tighten up agency inefficiencies and federal reimbursement requests.

NYCHA Falls Behind on 2019 HUD Agreement Requirements

In January of 2019, the New York City Housing Authority (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. The 2019 agreement set a series of performance metrics to measure NYCHA's level of success in service areas such as the up-keep of heating systems, mold and leak remediation, lead paint abatement, pest control, and elevator maintenance.

On Tuesday November 29, 2022, Bart Schwartz, NYCHA's court-appointed federal monitor, released the *Metrics and Data Report* on NYCHA's performance against the requirements in the January 2019 HUD Agreement. In the report, Schwartz praised NYCHA's compliance with creating a new data system that has been helpful in tracking maintenance issues, however, there are also quite a few alarming findings. Schwartz found that NYCHA failed to meet its elevator replacement goal of 108 by the end of 2022, having replaced only 2 elevators since 2018. The report also saw an increase in heating outages compared to the last two heating seasons and a 130% uptick in boiler breakdowns in the winter of 2021-2022 when compared to the winter of 2019-2020.

Schwartz's report comes with continued recommendations to NYCHA of further training and management of staff as well as an increased focus on preventative maintenance. The full report can be found here. <https://nychamonitor.com/federal-monitor-bart-m-schwartz-issues-metrics-and-data-report-on-nychas-performance-against-january-2019-hud-agreement-requirements/>

Massive Rent Arrears Adds to NYCHA Financial Woes

On Tuesday November 29, 2023, NYCHA officials notified federal officials that their inability to meet the requirements set in their 2019 Agreement with HUD was caused in large part by rent arrears that stemmed from the New York State's pandemic initiative, the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP).

ERAP provides income-qualified renters who have suffered financial hardship with up to 12 months back rent and up to 3 months future rent and subsequently reimburses the landlord for this cost. While private landlords were able to receive hundreds of millions of dollars from the program, the initiative ran out of dollars before considering public housing tenants. According to NYCHA, unpaid rent arrears have surged to \$443 million, a jump from the record-setting \$364 million in rent arrears in 2021.

NYCHA has yet to receive any money from ERAP. ■



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.



Telemedicine Program with Teladoc

By Mitch Goldberg

Director of the Welfare Fund

For several years now the MLC and OLR have jointly offered telemedicine to city employees. During the Covid-19 pandemic, telemedicine became an increasingly useful alternative to visiting a doctor in an office setting. As winter approaches and flu, colds and other viruses erupt, telemedicine may be a viable alternative to visiting a doctor or urgent care facility. Teladoc is a telehealth company which uses technology that allows you to access remote clinical health care via online video interaction or telephone. This service is not a substitute for visiting your PCP, but rather an alternative method for receiving care for minor, everyday ailments which may not require a visit to your doctor.

(For Those Covered Under the EmblemHealth GHI-CBP, GHI HMO, HIP HMO, HIP POS, and VYTRA plans)

With Teladoc, you can talk with a doctor within minutes rather than days or hours. Teladoc doctors can diagnose, treat, and prescribe medication (when medically necessary) for non-emergency medications. This includes treatments for the flu, sore throat, allergies, stomach aches, eye infections, bronchitis, and much more. To set up your account now so you can talk with one of Teladoc's board-certified doctors anytime when you don't feel well, call 1-800-Teladoc (1-800-835-2362) or visit Teladoc.com/emblemhealth. ■



A First Time For Everything

By David Bonington, CPF

Financial Planner, Stacey Braun Associates, Inc.

Happy Holidays – and, yes, it's that wonderful time of year again! Chilly, with snow in the forecast. Early darkness, but with lights and seasonal music everywhere. Office parties. Candles in windows. Friends and family get-togethers and dinners. Gift giving. A month for joy, celebration, and renewal.

Then January arrives - and with it, time to once again make resolutions for the year ahead. Many resolutions revolve around personal health and well-being: I will exercise and lose weight. I will eat more heart-healthy food. I will spend more time outside. I will not run late.

One very financially healthy resolution to make in 2023 is to take advantage of the free planning benefit offered by Stacey Braun Associates. The benefit includes up to six (6) hours of private consultation time on almost any financial topic. Meetings are strictly confidential, and because nothing is sold there is never any pressure to buy anything.

A New Year's resolution to use this benefit creates an opportunity to focus upon and get improved, higher "resolution" (to use another definition of the word) on issues which might be causing confusion or anxiety. What could be better than a personal, Slow-Mo, High-Def study of a topic of financial concern – especially if greater understanding, control, suggestions (and maybe even a solution) could be developed in a session or two?

See if any of these questions look familiar:

1. How much should I have in an Emergency Fund?
2. My budget is a little off and expensive credit card debt is building up – what's the best way to address this?
3. I struggle paycheck-to-paycheck – where can I get advice about doing something differently?
4. Are there preferred ways to save for a home – or for college?
5. I'm now [fill in Age]; how much should I be trying to save each month?
6. How can I make sure my investments are working as hard as I am?
7. I'm going to retire in 4-5 years - what happens once a Pension and Social Security replace a salary? BTW, is there good advice for this final part of my career?
8. Every year I pay taxes with money I would much rather save – am I overlooking anything?

There are sometimes general answers to these kinds of questions, but the best answers are ones which are developed in the context of your own unique, personal circumstances. Again, the High-Def magnification available in a meeting can bring important facts and details into focus, and help a planner help you make progress toward – what else? – resolution of some of your financial issues.

We hope to meet with many of you in 2023. Best Wishes to everyone in the New Year! ■

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.



"Hope" for the Holidays

By Karla Steinberg, LMSW

Membership Social Worker

It feels like summer was just yesterday but the influx of coats in the closet tell me the holiday season is upon us! If you are feeling the pressure of the holiday season, you are not alone. Why is this time of year, a time that's supposed to be about reflection, celebration, and family, so fraught with anxiety? What can you do to abate the stress that accompanies it?

First, let's normalize that despite the messaging we get about the holidays: "Joy! Peace! Merriment!" your feelings may not align. Many feel stressed about money, gift giving and making ends meet, especially given the increase in costs. You may feel harried at the thought of hosting or traveling. All of this is (of course) normal. You might experience mixed emotions, or ambivalence; the presence of multiple conflicting emotions all at once, which is very common. A lot of us feel that the external pressures and expectations of the season rob our ability to choose for ourselves.

While we cannot control external forces like weather, traffic, NYC being packed with tourists and so on, we can control how we respond. Setting boundaries with others can be useful, and difficult. Setting boundaries with *ourselves*, however, while equally challenging, will yield beneficial results. I encourage you to think of what you like to do to alleviate stress in your lives. See if you can find the joy in little things. If you cannot think of anything, try thinking about what makes you feel calm, content. I like to focus on little goals (like listening to a good album or watching a favorite movie) that can be easily attained. While vacations are great, they can be expensive and thus cause more stress. The same goes for retail therapy.

If you can set up a specific time, or unit of time (15 minutes, half an hour, and so on) to take care of your needs, you are likely to be better poised to face the onslaught of stressors that feel especially heightened at this time of year. Here are some things that you might find helpful:

- Take a hot shower or a bath.
- Put on some headphones/earbuds, listen to a song or a piece that you like. See if you can focus on just one instrument at a time: The bass line, then the guitar, etc. Really listen.
- Set limits on your social media usage (put the phone down and walk away for 10 minutes).

- If you're surrounded by people and feel overwhelmed or overstimulated, take a walk around the block if you can. Take note of how the fresh air feels in your lungs and on your face.
- Call a close friend or family member whose conversation you enjoy.
- Express your gratitude for people, to people. Express your gratitude to yourself, out loud.

It's normal to feel stressed, sad, anxious this time of year, but you can affect your feelings. If you feel pressured to do something, it may help to reframe the thought as something you are choosing to do. Given the options, "I have to drive 2 hours to go see my family," versus, "I will stay at home," you decide which outcome feels better to you. Both may carry unpleasant repercussions, but you can choose which consequences you prefer to take on. Whatever your choices this time of year, remind yourself that you have choices, and some control over your decisions.

On that note, I hope you have an enjoyable, peaceful (joyful!) holiday season. ■

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2023

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En todo el país, muchas personas están preocupadas por una variedad de cuestiones, desde la seguridad pública hasta el medio ambiente y la economía. Muchos han expresado su decepción por nuestro gobierno y nuestro liderazgo institucional, que a menudo ha sido desigual y poco inspirador. Muchas de nuestras clasificaciones y procedimientos políticos tradicionales han sido desafiados, rotos o redefinidos. Hoy en día, cuál de los dos principales partidos políticos de nuestra nación representa mejor los valores y las necesidades de los trabajadores es algo que se ha puesto en tela de juicio. Recuerdo el tiempo en el que lo sabíamos con más claridad. Sin embargo, en la actualidad, la afiliación a los sindicatos nacionales va en aumento. ¿Una coincidencia? Lo dudo. Existe un vacío y los sindicatos lo están llenando, nuevamente. Históricamente, y en especial en tiempos de crisis e incertidumbre nacional, el Movimiento Laboral Americano ha dado a los trabajadores lo que ningún otro organismo ha podido darles: comprensión, fortalecimiento en números y una voz.



Por lo tanto, entre mis esperanzas y oraciones para 2023, está el pleno resurgimiento de los sindicatos para retomar su tan necesario lugar como guardianes de las familias trabajadoras. Puede haber otros grupos u otras entidades, funcionarios electos y partidos políticos que sean amigables con el trabajo, pero solo los sindicatos tienen una cosa y sólo una sola: justicia para el trabajador. Ese es nuestro trabajo de tiempo completo. Las generaciones pasadas lo sabían, y pudieron ver, de primera mano, la diferencia que los sindicatos pueden hacer en la vida de un trabajador. A medida que ayudamos a nutrir, alentar e inspirar a la próxima generación de miembros, activistas y líderes sindicales, esta es una lección que se debe enseñar y que se debe aprender bien.

Gregory Floyd

President, Tronquistas Local 237 y Vicepresident General de la junta General de la Hermandad Internacional de Tronquistas

Que vuestra Navidad se llene de los verdaderos milagros y del significado de este tiempo de felicidad. Para su Navidad, les deseo muchas bendiciones, mucha felicidad y aún más amor. Que la cercanía de los amigos, la comodidad del hogar y la unidad de nuestra nación renueven su espíritu en esta época festiva. Feliz Navidad a su familia.



Jeanette I. Taveras

Representante de la Unión para los Aplicación de la Ley y Secretaria de Registro en la Junta Ejecutiva del Local 237

Mis esperanzas y sueños para 2023 son volver a una sensación de normalidad con respecto a la pandemia y sus secuelas. A lo largo de estos tiempos difíciles, muchos miembros se han visto afectados, tanto física como mentalmente. La División de Long Island se enorgullece de todos los miembros, ya que desempeñan funciones esenciales en sus zonas, para el público. Sin los miembros, las escuelas, pueblos, aldeas, bibliotecas y OTB/Jakes 58, no podrían funcionar. Long Island ha crecido en 2022, con nuevos miembros y nuevas áreas, buscando nuestra representación superior. Nos complace dar la bienvenida a todos los nuevos miembros, ya que no se han arrepentido de subirse a bordo y mirar hacia atrás. Los contratos, la representación y el cuidado general de ellos es lo que hacemos por todos. En Long Island es un esfuerzo de equipo por parte de los Representantes de la Unión, los representantes de la Unión de L.I., Delegados sindicales y de enlace. Somos un grupo enfocado que logra hacer las cosas y estoy orgulloso de todos. ¡Esperamos trabajar con todos y cada uno de los miembros en 2023, y les deseamos un 2023 con salud y felicidad!



Benedict Carenza, Jr.

Director de la División de Long Island para Local 237 y Fiduciario de la Junta Ejecutiva

A medida que se acerca el Año Nuevo, esperamos un nuevo comienzo y un inicio renovado. Es una tradición de muchos pasar algún tiempo repasando el último año y tomar una decisión o hacer un deseo para el Año Nuevo. Perder peso, dejar de fumar, gastar menos dinero, escuchar más a nuestra pareja, son sólo algunas de las decisiones que encabezan la lista. Cuando nos hacemos propósitos sabemos que, en el mejor de los casos, son ilusiones, y no tienen sanciones si no se cumplen. Sin duda, lo más cabal sobre los propósitos y deseos de Año Nuevo es que, aunque los hacemos con sinceridad y planeamos mantenerlos con seriedad cuando los pensamos, existe la sensación de que siempre podemos volver a hacerlos el próximo año. De hecho, el 88% de los propósitos de Año Nuevo fracasan; el 80% han finalizado, han sido olvidados o quedan abandonados en marzo del nuevo año.

El Año Nuevo es, de hecho, una época en la que muchos reflexionan sobre sus vidas -a veces con pesar, a veces con enojo por lo que salió mal-, pero más a menudo con agradecimiento y con esperanza de un año mejor por delante. Siempre hay celebridades que han analizado sus esperanzas, sus predicciones, sus aspiraciones y sus consejos de Año Nuevo. Oprah Winfrey dijo: "Salud por un nuevo año y otra oportunidad para que lo hagamos bien". Albert Einstein aconsejó: "Aprende de ayer, vive para hoy, espera por mañana". Maya Angelou señaló: "He aprendido que la gente olvidará lo que dijiste, la gente olvidará lo que hiciste, pero la gente nunca olvidará cómo lo hiciste sentir". Mark Twain sugirió que: "El Día de Año Nuevo es el momento aceptado para hacer sus buenos propósitos anuales regulares. La próxima semana ya podrá comenzar a pavimentar el infierno con ellos, como de costumbre". John Lennon dijo: "Cuenta tu edad por los amigos, no por los años. Cuenta tu vida por las sonrisas, no por las lágrimas". Michelle Obama animó a los jóvenes: "Elige a las personas en tu vida que te levanten". Mohammed Ali dio este consejo: "Yo odiaba cada minuto de entrenamiento. Pero me dije: no renuncies. Sufre ahora y vive el resto de tu vida como un campeón". El doctor Martin Luther King Jr. aconsejó a sus seguidores que "den el primer paso en la fe: no necesitan ver toda la escalera, solo el primer escalón". O cuando Frank Sinatra cantaba: "Lo mejor está por venir, nena, y no va a estar bien. Crees que hemos visto el Sol, pero no lo has visto brillar". E incluso el doctor Seuss intervino con este pensamiento filosófico: "A veces nunca sabrás el valor de un momento hasta que se convierta en un recuerdo".

Con más de dos años de coronavirus y sus variantes, muchas cosas han cambiado para siempre. A pesar de las señales de que estamos en el camino de la recuperación, hay una nueva normalidad que permanece, y que para algunos es cualquier cosa menos normal. Con certeza, mucho es diferente, desde la forma en que actualmente trabajamos y compramos, hasta cómo pasamos nuestro tiempo libre. Algunos podrían decir que prefieren las formas pre-pandémicas, como ver una nueva película en el cine local y comprar una fuente gigantesca de palomitas de maíz con mantequilla, en lugar de verla por Netflix en su iPad. Sin embargo, aquí estamos, con el 2023 llamando a la puerta y diciéndonos que es hora de seguir adelante. Si bien algunos pueden preguntarse si la pandemia tal vez ha tenido un "lado positivo", como pasar más tiempo junto a los miembros de la familia, o tal vez incluso generar un profundo sentido de agradecimiento o un sentimiento revitalizado de alegría por los placeres simples que anteriormente se habían dado por sentado o ignorado, miremos hacia el futuro con esperanza. Aquí se ven cuántos en el Local 237 están dando la bienvenida al Año Nuevo. ■

Greg Floyd y todos los Tronquistas del Local 237 han hecho un trabajo fenomenal durante el último año. Cuando se trata de abogar en nombre de los miembros, votar por candidatos políticos pro sindicales y negociar algunos de los mejores acuerdos de negociación colectiva para los trabajadores del sector público en todo el país, el trabajo que realiza este equipo no tiene comparación. Espero en 2023 y más allá continuar apoyando el increíble trabajo que están haciendo el presidente Floyd y el Local 237.



Sean M. O'Brien

President General, Hermandad Internacional de Tronquistas

La vida es corta. Vivámosla al máximo. A aquellos que siempre le han apoyado —su familia, amigos y colegas— ex-préseles su amor. Atesore especialmente a sus hijos y su pareja. También es muy importante cuidar su salud y encontrar la paz de la mente y mantener su dignidad. Para lograr estas cosas, deje de preocuparse por las personas que no entienden o que no aprecian lo que usted hace: evítelas y es mejor rodearse de personas positivas. Felices fiestas y todo lo mejor para el Año Nuevo.



Donald Arnold

Local 237 Secretario / Tesorero de la Junta Ejecutiva y Director de Citywide Division

Al igual que tantas personas, me estoy acercando a 2023 con sentimientos encontrados, un poco alegres y un poco tristes. Siempre me siento feliz de comenzar algo nuevo, con tantas perspectivas de mejoras por delante. Pero también hay algo de tristeza, sabiendo que con el fin del año, la dependencia sobre ciertas rutinas y sobre algunas de las personas que ayudaron a hacerlas funcionar, puede necesitar cambios para el próximo año. Afortunadamente para mí hay una constante feliz: dos niños pequeños, Mason de casi 7 y Teddy de casi 2. Con el "Feliz Cumpleaños" como su canción favorita, y con cada postre al que hay que conseguirle una vela, el Año Nuevo a través de sus ojos sólo transmite esperanza y alegría. Las expectativas de Mason de recibir un Lamborghini de Santa y su orgullo por leer de su libro de texto, o la emoción de escuchar las nuevas palabras de Teddy y verlo bailar a "Bare Necessities" son ese tipo de placeres simples, que fácilmente pasamos por alto o no les damos su valor. Mi propósito de Año Nuevo, por lo tanto, es tratar de disfrutar más de esas cosas. Y mi oración para todos nosotros, es que tengamos más de esos momentos y nos tomemos más tiempo para apreciarlos.



Phyllis Shafran

Director de Comunicaciones y Coordinador Político

Mi propósito para el Año Nuevo es hacer ejercicio, cultivar un huerto y beber más agua. Comer sano es mi objetivo final. También planeo no sudar por cosas pequeñas y vivir la vida al máximo.



Kangel Moore

Representante de La Unión Local 237 División de Aplicación de Ley

Salud
Felicidad
Comer mejor

Charlie Cotto

Representante de La Unión Local 237 División de Aplicación de Ley





Disagree With Your Disability Decision? We Will Take Another Look
By Thomas McMahon

District Manager, Social Security in Downtown Manhattan

Social Security is here to help millions of people secure their today and tomorrow by providing benefits and financial protection. We continue to protect the integrity of our disability programs by ensuring we make the correct decision on each claim. However, if you disagree with the decision on your claim, you can ask for your case to be reviewed by filing an appeal.

How can I appeal Social Security's decision on my claim?

Generally, there are four appeal levels. If you are not satisfied with the decision at one level, you may appeal to the next.

The appeal levels are:

1. Reconsideration: A reconsideration is a complete review of your claim by someone who did not take part in the first decision. We look at all the evidence submitted in the original determination, and any new evidence.

2. Hearing: If you disagree with the decision at the reconsideration level, you may ask for a hearing. An administrative law judge, who had no part in the original decision or the reconsideration of your case, conducts the hearing.

3. Appeals Council Review: If you disagree with the hearing decision, you can request a review by Social Security's Appeals Council. The Appeals Council looks at all requests for review. They will decide whether or not there is a reason to return your case to the judge for further review.

4. Federal Court Review: If you disagree with the Appeals Council's decision, you can file a lawsuit in a federal district court as the last level in the appeals process.

Please visit our Appeal A Decision webpage for more information at www.ssa.gov/benefits/disability/appeal.html

When should I file my appeal?

If we denied your claim, you have 60 days from the date of the notice to file an appeal. The easiest and quickest way is to file your appeal request online at www.ssa.gov/benefits/disability/appeal.html. This is where you can submit associated documents electronically. You can also call your local Social Security office or 1-800-772-1213 to obtain the forms. You can find your local office at www.ssa.gov/locator.

Do I need a representative to file an appeal?

A representative or attorney is not required to file an appeal. Whether you choose to appoint an attorney or authorized representative is completely up to you. You may choose to have someone help you with your appeal or represent you. Your representative may be a lawyer or other qualified person familiar with you and the Social Security program. We will work with your representative just as we would work with you. They can act for you in most Social Security matters, and they will receive a copy of any decisions we make about your claim.

If you need us to review your case, please go online at www.ssa.gov/benefits/disability/appeal.html or call 1-800-772-1213. Please share this information with your family and friends. ■



The Legal Services Plan Helps Members Prevent Eviction

By Mary E. Sheridan, Esq.

Director of Local 237 Legal Services Plan

The vast majority of tenants do not have a lawyer in Housing Court while almost all landlords do. Your Legal Services Plan can represent you, at no cost to you, if your landlord is trying to evict you from your home, unless you live in a New York City Housing Authority apartment. We represent members in two types of landlord tenant proceedings – Holdovers and Nonpayment cases.

A Holdover Proceeding is one where the landlord wants possession of the apartment. Even if you have paid all your rent to the landlord, the landlord is stating it wants you out of the apartment. In most cases, the landlord needs a reason to evict you, and must notify you what that reason is and give you time to fix it or leave.

A Nonpayment Proceeding is one where the landlord states you owe back rent and if you pay, you can stay. Since the pandemic, there are many resources available to help you pay back rent, as well as defenses that can protect you in a Nonpayment case.

Do not ignore any court papers you may receive from the landlord even if you believe you have not been properly served. Do not leave your home – you have rights! Call your Legal Services Plan and we will screen your case and if eligible, set you up for an appointment.

Many times we have members call after receiving a City Marshal's Notice of Eviction. You must never ignore a Marshal's Notice of Eviction! Even if your landlord tells you not to worry about it, you need to act.

A Marshal's Notice of Eviction means your landlord has a judgment of possession against you, and the Marshal will come back to remove you from the premises. The Notice of Eviction will usually appear on or under your apartment door and through the mail, or someone may give it to you or another occupant in person. A landlord cannot have you removed from the apartment unless you have received this notice. You have 14 days from the date on the Notice to go to court and stop the eviction, and you can't be evicted on a weekend or holiday. If you think you are about to be evicted, you can call the phone number on the Notice to find out if the Marshall is slated to evict you that day. You can also call the Legal Services Plan (212) 924-1220 to get emergency advice and an emergency appointment.

Don't panic! Go to the court indicated on the Notice, see the clerk, and file an Order to Show Cause to vacate the judgment of possession and stay (put off) the eviction until you have a chance to be heard. You should file an Order to Show Cause even if you agreed to have a judgment against you, and even if you did not follow an agreement with your landlord. If you owe money to your landlord, the judge should sign your Order to Show Cause if you bring money, proof you can get the money, or proof of payment to court. You should tell the clerk any circumstances the judge should know, including:

- You were not served properly with any court papers.
- You did not know that a judgment was entered against you.
- You don't owe any money to your landlord.
- You made payments to your landlord according to an agreement, and have proof you paid.
- You have the ability to pay whatever amount is due.
- You are filed for ERAP or are approved for a loan/one shot deal/grant and have the ERAP filing or approval letter.
- Your landlord is retaliating against you for complaining about bad conditions in the building.
- You have young children, disabled, military, or elderly people with you in the apartment.

When the judge signs the Order to Show Cause, they will give you a court date. Your court date is usually a week or less from when you filed the Order to Show Cause. If you have contacted the Legal Services Plan and we can represent you, you must call us immediately with the court date so we can set up an appointment before then.

Your Union was at the forefront when creating a Legal Services Plan providing free lawyers for working people. Contact your Legal Services Plan at (212) 924-1220. ■

In Memoriam



Holiday season is especially difficult for families who have lost loved ones. We hope it provides some comfort in knowing that your friends and colleagues of Local 237 share your sorrow. We recognize that our union brothers and sisters have given so much to so many and in return, we offer our sincere thanks and gratitude. Let fond memories give you peace and the strength to carry on as a tribute to the dearly departed.

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