



Vol. 57, No. 2

Summer 2023

By Gregory Floyd

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

For many, Mother's Day signals the approaching summer. Maya Angelou said: *"There is no influence as powerful as that of a mother."* Former President Barack Obama credits his mother with *"What is best in me I owe to her."* Michael Jordan said his mother *"was my greatest teacher, a teacher of compassion, love and fearlessness."*

Clearly, we know that mothers have a huge impact not only on their own children, but also on other peoples' kids as well. Throughout history, mothers around the globe have played roles from warrior to waitress for their offspring and others. In our country, from protesting our involvement in Vietnam to drunk-driving to Black Lives Matter — and so many more issues — mothers have led the marches and held the banners.

The same is true in the labor movement. For example, after the death of AFL-CIO president and prominent national union leader Richard Trumka in 2021, longtime labor leader and supporter of "Moms Rising Together", Liz Shuler, took over as president—marking the first time a woman took the helm of the largest and most powerful federation of labor unions in the country.

The pandemic had created an opportunity for new movements in industries that haven't organized before — movements also led by moms. Unions provide the much-needed pathway to worker safeguards and benefits that are of particular concern to women, such as maternity leave, childcare and paid vacations.

On that score, Local 237 has been a leader in protecting the rights of our female workers. In 2014, our long, hard fought battle was won resulting in an historic gender-based class action lawsuit filed against New York City on behalf of School Safety Agents — 70% of whom are women, mostly Blacks and Latinas — performing similar duties as peace officers working for other City agencies — 70% of whom are men — but earning approximately \$7,000 more per year than their counterparts working in public schools.

So, it makes great sense that remembering mom on her big day is also known as the unofficial "kick off" of the joys of summer when the trees are in full bloom, temperatures are climbing, and family vacations are being planned. Summer is the time to rid ourselves of winter blues. As we lighten up our clothing, we lighten up our spirits too.

In fact, there is an abundance of scientific evidence of the physical and mental health benefits of summer: The Vitamin D that sunny weather provides is essential for the maintenance of healthy bones and teeth, and also proves to have a positive effect in the fight against multiple diseases such as diabetes and multiple sclerosis. In addition, evidence shows that summertime can have a positive impact on mood, helping to reverse the depression often caused by the social isolation that winter months, severe weather and fewer hours of daylight can bring.

So, whether you are listening to the sentiments of Bob Marley when he sang: "Sun is shining. Weather is sweet. Make you wanna move your dancing feet," or heeding the advice of the Beatles who sang "But tomorrow may rain, so I'll follow the sun," or Seals and Crofts' refrain "Summer breeze makes you feel fine", summertime offers a much-needed respite to re-energize, a reminder of the beauty that surrounds us, and the benefits of taking time to "smell the roses". ■



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, 6th Fl.

212-807-0555
Provides a variety of pre- and post-
retirement services, including
pension and health insurance
counseling to members. (Pension
counseling by appointment, Thurs-
days only). General retirement
counseling and retirement plan-
ning series during spring and fall.
Julie Kobi, Director

LOCAL 237 DEPARTMENTS (Citywide and Housing)

SKILLED TRADES, 2nd Fl.

212-924-2000
Donald Arnold, Director

HEALTH AND SAFETY, 2nd Fl.

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

MEMBERS HEALTH, 2nd Fl.

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

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

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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

LEGAL SERVICES, 4th Fl.

212-924-1220
Lawyers advise and represent mem-
bers on covered personal legal prob-
lems, including domestic relations
(family court proceedings, divorce
and separation), purchase and sale of
a primary residence, wills, adoptions,
credit and consumer problems, ten-
ant rights and bankruptcies.
Mary Sheridan, Esq., Director
Kenneth Perry, Esq., Deputy Director

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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 Citywide 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 communicat-
ing with and supporting elected officials serving our best interests.
Phyllis S. Shafran, Coordinator

GRIEVANCES/DISCIPLINARY PROBLEMS, 2nd Fl.

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

CIVIL SERVICE BAR ASSOC.

6th 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 &
Editor Local 237 Newsline and
Editor, Retiree News & Views

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

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

USEFUL NUMBERS FOR PRE-RETIREEES

NYCERS (New York City Employees Retirement System)

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

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

General Information:
347-643-3000

Outside NYC toll-free:
877-6NYCERS

NYCERS Internet
www.nyclink.org/html/nycers

NYC Department of Education Retirement System

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

Social Security Administration

800-772-1213

NY State and Local Retirement Systems

518-474-7736



A message from the President

What's In A Word?

By Gregory Floyd

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

Across our nation, between Memorial Day and Labor Day, which includes Flag Day, Father's Day, Juneteenth and the Fourth of July, there will be countless celebrations where the word "hero" will be applied. The word will be the centerpiece of speeches and the supposed purpose for parades, barbecues, and sales throughout America.

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

Today, we tend to think of our heroes in a more down-to-earth way, still very noble, but a mortal among us who makes a difference in our lives. Every-day heroes: The little league coach. The neighbor who saved a child in a burning building. Your dad.

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

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

So, whether it's the countless men and women who brought dignity and valor to the uniform they wear in defense of our freedom, or the School Safety Agents who provided free prom gowns, we take special pride in the many Local 237 members who selflessly helped others.

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

Clearly, the word *hero* applies to the highly acclaimed and the virtually unknown. Men and women who rise to the situation but may not get a parade to honor their accomplishments, but they have, nonetheless made a difference. ■



You're not in Newsline? Why not?

YOU ARE NEWSWORTHY!

We want to hear from you!

Send us your photos, stories and ideas. We're interested in you:
On the job, special accomplishments, family news, etc.

Email pshafran@local237.org or call Phyllis Shafran at 646-638-8501

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:

A Hero Among Us



In Pennsylvania's Easton West Ward, fire crews recently spent several hours battling an enormous blaze that hit more than a dozen row homes. Fire Chief Henry Hennings called it the city's biggest fire in years, affecting at least 15 homes in the 900 block of Ferry Street. The day's breezy conditions likely helped the fire and smoke spread from blocks away.

At least two Easton firefighters were treated by medical crews at the scene, and one was under evaluation at a hospital. Several fire departments from Easton's surrounding communities were assisting on the scene. Roofs were opened by saws and water was blasted through upper-level windows.

Luckily, **Ruben Torres**, Vice President on Local 237's Executive Board, was on the scene. He was attending a BBQ on the block. When he noticed black smoke emanating from the homes, he immediately called 911 and started knocking on windows and doors to get people out. Ruben said: "With so many elderly residents living in those homes, I knew I had to do something—and do it fast."

Queens South Autism Walk



CO Lavington, L1 Bender, L1 Feeley, L1 Lopez, L1 Osorio, CO Wilson and L1 Rembert.



Autism Awareness, Health and Safety Day hosted by Brooklyn South School Safety and P721. Special shout-out to SSA3 **Nicola McFarlene** and her team for the outstanding work.

SI SSAs Help Avoid a Possible Tragedy



School Safety Agents were conducting a routine perimeter search behind South Richmond High School when they found a gray firearm and a knife with a four-inch steel blade and black handle inside a black bag on top of the grass. The quick-thinking SSAs called the police who quickly responded. A special thank you is owed to several SSAs for their diligent work in helping to avoid a possible tragedy. (l-r) SSA L3 **Lemnaizi**, SSA L1 **Marrero** and SSA L1 **Uddin**. (SSAs L1 **Ardrey** and **Kelly** also assisted but are not in the photo).

Steadfast Advancement

Baruch College Campus Peace Officer **Kevin Jones** started working at Baruch College in 2014 as a Campus Security Assistant (CSA). In 2016, while working as a CSA he became a Certified EMT. In 2017, he moved up in rank and became a Campus Peace Officer (CPO). While working as a CPO, he continued studying and became a Certified Instructor in 2019 and a First Aid-CPR instructor in 2021. While working and going to school, he has now become a Registered Nurse.



Local 237 NEWSLINE

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

Executive Board

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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.



Bronx SSAs Honored for Heroism



In June, at the UFT office in the Bronx, SSAs from the Bronx West and Bronx East were honored for their heroism. (l-r) **Charlie Cotto**, **Diana Doss**, **SSA Luis Ortega**, **SSA Zoemeia Pickens**, **SSA Jaylene Rosario**, **Jeanette Taveras**, **Len Proctor**, **NYPD Chief Marlon Larin**, and **Derek Jackson**.



NYCHA Congratulates

Congratulations to **Anthony Salley**, a newly appointed Plasterer.

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:

York College Public Safety Department hosts their inaugural Police Officer Wellness Course titled "Building Resilience & Thriving in the Line of Duty". Law enforcement officers participated from various agencies such as NYPD, DCAS, CUNY and others. Thank you **Chief James Assmann** and **Deputy Director Suarez** for hosting a highly valuable course for the Law Enforcement Officers.



Law Enforcement Officers in break-out session held in the conference room.



Officers in auditorium for wellness presentation with **Chief James Assmann** and **Deputy Director Suarez** of York College Public Safety Department.



(l-r) CSAs Cadogan, Ross and Valentine at York College.



Brooklyn College Campus **Police Officer Amin** always greets students, faculty and visitors with a smile.



Hospital Police Officer **Sgt. Mayers** has worked at Coler Rehabilitation & Nursing Center for more than 15 years.



Campus Police Officers at Queensborough Community College provide safety around the clock. (l-r) CPO Senat, CSA Khan, CPO Ziegler, CPO Quick, CSA Hossain, CPO Washington, Sgt. Campbell and Sgt. Arias.



Staten Island SSAs at Susan Wagner High School prom.



Hospital Police **Officer Major** at Gouverneur Hospital.



School Safety Agents positively impacting the lives of our youth at the NYPD Community Center. (l-r) Level III Pointdujour, Agent Shields and Agent Kane.



Officers at LaGuardia Community College. They provide a safe environment for the College community. (l-r) CSA Ramkishun and CPO Salazar.



Campus Police Officers welcome students, faculty and visitors at Bronx Community College. (l-r) Sgt. Soto, Corp. Chamorro, and PO Mosley.



CSA **Lewis Baez** showing off the yellow union shirt at NYC College of Technology.



Congratulations to Campus Police Officer **Corporal Sotillio** on his promotion at Medgar Evers College.



Meet Shop Steward **Officer Kensah** at Jacob Javits Convention Center. He is ready to distribute union tee shirts to the officers at the site with Director of Law Enforcement Division **Derek Jackson**.



Campus Police Officers taking pride in serving the public and keeping everyone safe on the campus at York College. (l-r) Sgt. White and Specialist Marrero.



School Safety Agent **Hazel-Martin** is expecting twins and was given two baby showers. Congratulations on your bundles of joy.



Lehman College grievance Representative and **Campus Police Officer James** receives union tee shirts to distribute to the members.



Congratulations to Campus Police Officer **Corporal Pereira** on his promotion at Medgar Evers College.



Congratulations to **Sgt. Jeffery Miller** on his promotion to Lieutenant at the Medical Examiner's Office.



CUNY Kingsborough Community College Public Safety Officers. (l-r)(front row) PO Peterson, CSA Sabassar, CSA Yusuf. (back row) CSA Atkins, CSA Chambers, PO Calliester, PO Pierre and CSA Lockhart.



CUNY Officers at Kingsborough Community College. (l-r) CSA Chambers, CPO Calisto, CSA Yusuff, CPO Abreu, CSA Regis, CPO Frederick, CSA Lockhart, CPO Hunt, CPO McLorrian and CSA Atkins.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS **Law Enforcement Division** *Continued*

Henry J. Carter Community Advisory Board 2023 Legislative Breakfast

President Gregory Floyd attended Henry J. Carter Community Advisory Board's 2023 Legislative Breakfast.



(l-r) **Hospital Police Sgt. Jusino**; Captain Alago; Chief Executive Officer Floyd R. Long; President of Local 237 Teamsters **Gregory Floyd**; **Hospital Police Officer George**; Director of Hospital Police Mr. Victor Hart; and Philanthropist and CEO of Wheelchair Charities Henry J. Carter.



(l-r) President of Local 237 Teamsters **Gregory Floyd**, Philanthropist and CEO of Wheelchair Charities Henry J. Carter, Congressman Adriano Espaillat, and CEO of Henry J. Carter Hospital & Rehabilitation Mr. Floyd Long.

SI SSAs Celebrate Mother's Day and Father's Day



Staten Island SSAs Health and Safety Awards. (l-r) SSA Davis, CO Coto, SSA Forcina, SSA3 Gonzalez, SSA3 Sims, SSA Trani, SSS Stewart, SSA3 Mattera, SSA Alo, SSS Holt-Pate, SSA3 Dasilva, Chief Laren. (seated in front) SSA Phillips, SSS Urban-Glessner and SSS Morales.



CUNY Public Officer Perez is one of several officers at Hostos College who keep the campus safe for visitors, faculty, and students.



Officer Balaban of Jacob Javits Convention Center. He has been an officer since 2017.

CUNY Law Enforcement Brooklyn College Employee Service Awards

Congratulations to Brooklyn College's Campus Police Officers for their 20 plus years of service at the college. President Michelle J. Anderson of Brooklyn College presented each officer with a plaque.

Campus Police Officer Romain James celebrated 20 years of service, **Campus Police Officer Rodney Matthews** celebrated 25 years of service and **Campus Police Officer Carlton Sutton** celebrated 30 years of service.



Campus Police Officer Rodney Matthews, **CPO Carlton Sutton**, **CPO Romain James** and **Business Agent Kangela Moore**.



President of Brooklyn College Michelle J. Anderson awarded plaque to **CPO Romain James**.



Michelle J. Anderson awarded plaque to **CPO Rodney Matthews**.



Michelle J. Anderson awarded plaque to **CPO Carlton Sutton**.

Theresa Gregg Memorial

A beautiful and touching memorial was held for DHS Peace Officer **Theresa Gregg**. She may be gone but is not forgotten by her Teamsters Local 237 family. DHS Peace Officers along with CUNY Public Officers, Union President **Gregory Floyd**, Deputy Director of Law Enforcement & Citywide Division **Charlie Cotto** and Business Agent **Kangela Moore** released lavender and white balloons in the sky on Manhattan Beach to memorialize the life of our sister. Lt. Gourdine of DHS uplifted her brother's and sister's by stating, "She will always be in our hearts." Thank you to our DHS Officers for organizing the memorial and our Kingsborough CUNY Officers for hosting the memorial.



(l-r) Deputy Director of Law Enforcement and Citywide Division **Charlie Cotto**, Lt. Gourdine, Sgt. Caldwell, PO Hutson, PO Pritchard, PO Lovick and Teamsters Local 237 President **Gregory Floyd**.



DHS Peace Officers, CUNY Public Officers with Union President **Gregory Floyd**, Deputy Director of Law Enforcement and Citywide Division **Charlie Cotto** and Business Agent **Kangela Moore** release balloons.



(l-r) DHS Deputy Inspector Eddie, Lt McLeod, Lt Beckett, Sgt Griffin, Sgt Caldwell, Sgt Santiago, PO Pritchard, PO Hutson, PO Saunders, PO Dennis, PO Rhodes, PO Das, PO Deans, PO Fraser, PO D'Angelo, PO Barksdale, Kingsborough Community College Public Safety Officers, Sgt. Lopes, CSA Sabassar, PO Pierre, PO Calliste, and PO Smith with Teamster's Local 237 President **Gregory Floyd** (second left, back row) and Deputy Director of Law Enforcement & Citywide Division **Charlie Cotto**.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS **Law Enforcement Division** *Continued*

Martin Luther King HS SSAs Honored

School Safety Agents from Martin Luther King HS were honored at a special recognition breakfast at LaGuardia HS. The SSAs were honored for their exemplary job in helping a young man who was shot outside the perimeter of the school and ran into the school for help.



Jeanette Taveras, Local 237's Recording Secretary and Business Agent with SSAs honored.



York College's CUNY Public Officer Corporal **Batalille**.



(l-r) CUNY Public Officers **Obaid** and **Jones** at CUNY PREP High School.



L3 Denise Soriano, **L1 Angel Thorne**, **L1 Rebbee Jager**, **L1 Melinda Pitt**, **L1 Christopher Gaines**, **L1 Amadaou Sow**, **L1 Kendra Wynn** and **L1 Kisha Whitfield**. Also in the picture is: **Mona David**, School Safety Coalition, President and CEO; **Derek Jackson**, Local 237's Director of Law Enforcement, **CO Lightsey**, NYPD; **Jeanette Taveras**, Local 237's Recording Secretary and Business Agent.



Teamwork makes the dream work! Together Shop Steward **Sgt. Grant** and **Annette Lazaro**, Executive Assistant to the Vice President of CUNY Affairs assist graduating students with ceremony information at Queensborough Community College.

Metropolitan Hospital Inaugural Labor Event

Deputy Director of Welfare Fund **Len Proctor**; Business Agent of Citywide Division **Bianca Jones**; and Law Enforcement Division Business Agent **Kangela Moore** participated in Metropolitan Hospital Inaugural Labor Union Information and Appreciation Day. They answered member's questions, gave away tee shirts, magnets and union literature.



(l-r) Business Agent of Citywide Division **Bianca Jones**, Business Agent of Law Enforcement Division **Kangela Moore** and Deputy Director of Welfare Fund **Len Proctor** at the event.



(l-r) Deputy Director of Welfare Fund **Len Proctor**, Business Agent of Citywide Division **Bianca Jones**, Chief Executive Officer **Cristina Contreras**, Hospital Police **Captain Diaz** and Business Agent of Law Enforcement Division **Kangela Moore**.



Deputy Director of Welfare Fund **Len Proctor**, with Hospital Police **Det. Lee**, **Sgt. Moran**, **Sgt. Desantis** and **Det. Rivera**.



Hospital Police Officer **Diaz**.

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 wishes them well in their retirement:



(l-r) **Pablo Williams** receiving his retirement plaque from the Director of the Housing Division, **Carl Giles**.



Nathaniel Scott, Caretaker X, Shop Steward and Safety Associate at Beach 41st Street, retired after 35 years of service. Pictured with **Norberto Luna, Jr.**, Assistant Director for Housing Division.



Retiree Mark Boynton 36 years of service with NYCHA, Heating Maintenance at Brooklyn Borough flanked by Housing Business Agents **Ken Franco** (l) and **Vincent Lattimore** (r).



Retiree Visley Conforme, 13 years of service with NYCHA as a Caretaker J at Forest Houses.



Retiree Larry Keene 30 years of service with NYCHA, Site Caretaker at Bronx River Houses.



(l-r) **Jeanette Taveras** with Special Officer **Maxine Wright**, a Sergeant with the Department of Education. She retired March 1, 2022 after 41 yrs.



Lady Valentina-Chestnut, 15 years of service with NYCHA, Caretaker J at Berry Houses.



Retiree Freddy Alvarez 28 years of service with NYCHA, Site Caretaker at Bronx River Houses.



(l-r) **Donald Arnold**, **Philip Cavaretta**, retired Elevator Mechanic NYCHA, 32 years of service, with **President Gregory Floyd**.

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:



Cooks at Staten Island Seaview Hospital pictured with **Curtis Scott** (c).



Springfield Auto Pound: Evidence and Property Control specialists. (l-r) **Carlos Fungshak**, **Janet Perez-Tull**, **Sandra McCray**, **Maureen Renwick**, **Samone Salley**, **David Balthazard**, **Jazmine Maglione**, **Francisco Monasterio** and **Steven Yuen Chen**.



Springfield Auto Pound: Evidence and Property Control specialists. (l-r) (top row) **Xenia Bell**, **Francisco Monasterio**, **Carlos Fungshak**, **Iffat Hossain**, **Janet Perez-Tull**, **George Wade** Asst. Director. (middle row) **Nakeesah Hewitt**. (bottom row) **Jazmine Maglione** and **Karyna Mykhalkova**.



EPCS NYPD Brooklyn Property Clerk's Office.



North Central Bronx Hospital techs (l-r) Radiologic Tech and Shop Steward **Martin Ong**, Associate Tech **Joann Pertuz**, Assistant Director Citywide Division **George Wade**, Ultrasound Tech **Mioche Boney** and Ultrasound Tech **Kimberly Martinez**.



Angel L. Vasquez, Maintenance worker at Seaview Rehabilitation Hospital.



Stephen Ianniello, DOT Bricklayer Shop Steward with **Curtis Scott**.



(l-r) Senior Housekeeping Supervisor **Christopher Maldonado**, Senior Housekeeping Supervisor **Francisco Torres**, Business Agent **Bianca Jones** and Assistant Director Citywide Division **George Wade**. Our supervisors valiantly continued to perform their duties throughout the pandemic.



(l-r) **Curtis Scott** with NYPD Maintenance Worker / Shop Steward **Adolfo Redillo**.



(l-r) DOT Bricklayers: **Reeve Cherry**, **Michael Lacertosa**, **Simon McCarney**, **Jerry Colello**, **Stephen Ianniello**, **Anthony Crisanti**, **Anthony Gianfrancesco** and **Walter Bryant** in the middle.



(l-r) **Stephanie Zuzworsky-Bennett**, Shop Steward, Hostler; **Marcus Martinez**, Horseshoe; and **Katie Raszewski**, Hostler—NYPD Mounted Unit.

Congratulations to Newly Promoted School Safety Agent

President Gregory Floyd with newly graduated School Safety Agent Shaquanda McMichael and her family.



President Gregory Floyd flanked by School Safety Agent Shaquanda McMichael's family. (l-r) Lisa Stewart, Chinese Bussey, Shirley Major I, Tahija McMichael, Chinese Major and Mary Mitchell.



President Gregory Floyd with newly graduated School Safety Agent Shaquanda McMichael and her family, Larry McMichael, Lisa Stewart, Shirley Major and Tahija McMichael.



Hospital PO Grad Class 2023-01

DOH MH Academy



New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Peace Officer Graduation — April 21, 2023. In attendance was President Gregory Floyd (back row, third from right).



(l-r) George Wade, Citywide Business Agent and newly promoted Lt. Tiffany Carter, Goldwater Hospital.



Newly promoted Lt. Perez, Woodhull Hospital.

DHS Medal Day 2023



Sergeant of the year: Sgt David Santos with Captain Ebony Chance.



Derek Jackson, Sgt. Joel Pichardo and Charlie Cotto.



Medal Day awardees with Charlie Cotto and Martha Bodhnarain to the left.



Charlie Cotto, Captain Ebony Chance, Sgt David Santos, Derek Jackson.



Award for Excellent Duty Officer: Skuyler Merriweather.



Award for Excellent Duty Officer: Johanna Cotto.

MILESTONE YEARS OF SERVICE HONOREES 5 YEARS

PO Joynul Abedin
PO Ronald Andre
PO Jamal Barksdale
PO Bergin Chalas
PO Tayez Cobay
PO Maurice Coles
PO Johan Cordero
PO Miriam Das
PO Taniqua Deans
PO Douglas Dennis
PO Maurene Desir
PO Messiah Frazier
PO Albert Garcia, Jr.
PO Nashara Grady
PO Anthony Hidalgo
PO Tonya Hunt
PO DJeff Hyacinthe
PO Cleaisa Junior
PO Steven Liebowitz
PO Rubin Nunez
PO Stephen Pearson
PO Kahleem Rosenberg
PO Phedra Scarlett
PO Paul Sosa
PO Tamika Spruill
PO Siobhan Thomas
PO Jermaine Vincent
PO Christine Walker
PO Shaniqua Wells

10 YEARS

SGT Jonathan Brumfield
PO Florine Bumpars
PO Russell David
SGT Tasha Diaz
SGT Karim Elsergany
SGT Edmund Henry
LT Ernest Hodge
PO Jermaina Howard
PO Cordell Hunt
SGT Preston Irby
SGT Glennd Jarrin
SGT Spyridon Karousos
LT Amy Kelly
PO Andrew Kirkley
PO Nathan Lambert
PO Marissa McAllister
LT Archie McLeod
SGT Shaquanna Meadows
PO Pradeep Roy
PO Michaelk Rupp
SGT Miriam Torres
SGT Harold Wine
PO Rostislav Zheleznyak

30 YEARS

SGT John Dudzik

LETTER OF RECOGNITION

Johan Cordero
Christopher D'Angelo
Tasha Diaz
Jasmine Fonville
Henry Garcia
Demetrius Glover
Renee Henry
Deshawn Irby
Francisco Lorenzo
Andrew Lovick
Morales Luis
Ashley Molina
Thomas Perez
Inoa Ramon
Kris Rivera
Selena Spencer
Vantina Trumble

15 YEARS

PO Shaday Battle
SGT Tracy Benhjamin
PO George Bouknight
PO Craig Brown
SGT Thomasina Brown
SGT Kim Caldwell
PO Ayoletta Clarke
DET Dejuan Cottle
PO Andrickson Dilone
SGT Reiko Facey
SGT Monica Grenald
Kingston Henry
LT Gregory Holmes
SGT Lewis Holton
PO Stephen Horsford
SGT Fulvio Jimenez
PO Cherisse McDonald
SGT Robert McNeil
DET Mary Miller
SGT Catherine Negron
Vrijeshkumar Patel
SGT Joel Pichardo
LT Tania Redillo
PO Carlos Rivera
SGT Jose Santos
PO Kiesha Stewart
JAS (Norman) Vasquez
PO Carlos Vazquez
SGT Shirley Wrotten
PO Dana Yellowday

20 YEARS

SGT Melissa McDowell
SGT Anthony Pucci
SGT Weston Peter

25 YEARS

DET Roger Washington
PO Thelma Williams

30 YEARS

SGT John Dudzik

EXCELLENT DUTY HONORS

Leonard Bailey
Juan Beato
Mario Cadavid-Tobon
Javonne Cardwell
Raven Clemente
Johanna Cotto
Reiko Facey
Damion Fearon
Cherod Fecunda
Albert Garcia
Gerald Gonzalez
Shundell Henry
DJeff Hyacinthe
Glennd Jarrin
Peter Mancuso
Miguel Martinez
Melissa McDowell
Skuyler Merriweather
Keir-Andre Nelson
Shar-Asia Ortiz
Thomas Perez
Collin Rose
Tonia Simmons
Kashena Stukes
Siobhan Thomas
Tiahni Sargent
James Watson
Theresa Williams
Rostislav Zheleznyak

MERITORIOUS DUTY

Roy Amiker
Luca Bruno
Julian Jackson
Spyridon Karousos
Aidian Roche

COMMENDATION

Rubin Nunez
Melshawn Scott
Emir Radoncic

VALOR

Gee Wah Hwee
Jessica Prophete

OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Ashley Molina

SERGEANT OF THE YEAR

David Santos

UNIT CITATION

Jamal Barksdale
Dionne Beckett
Steve Burgos
Tyrell Saunders
Paul Sosa
Lejun Williams

Thank You School Safety Training Unit

Congratulations to the NYPD School Safety Training Unit for a job well done! They have successfully trained over 120 School Safety Agents to be the next generation of leaders in this profession.



(l-r) School Safety Training Unit SSA III Robin Morris Integrity Control Officer, SSA III Antoinette Charles Academic Curriculum Coordinator, Academic Instructors, SSA III Suehaly Espejo, SSA III Lucretia Vereen, SSA III Gina Winter-Ewer, SSA III Jacqueline Watkins, SSA III Shalonn Anderson-Robinson, SSA III Ayeshia Artis, SSA III Elvira Santiago, SSA III Christina Fuentes, SSA III Denise McIntosh, Squad Supervisors SSA III Jamain Powell and SSA III Justin Perez with Supervisor of School Security Vernon House.

Youth Response Team Graduation

Congratulations to the School Safety Division's first Youth Response Team. A certification ceremony was held for this new group. This team is comprised of Police Officers and School Safety Agents who provide safe passage to students, faculty and members of the community. They also mentor youth across the city.



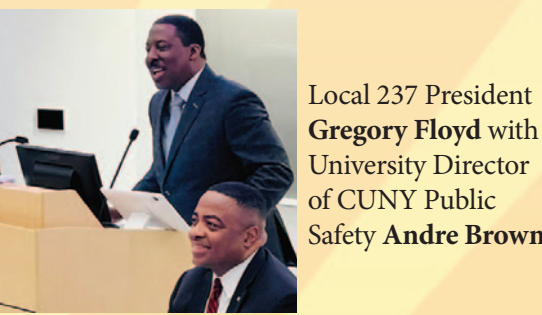
Youth Response Team with (l-r) Business Agent Kangela Moore, Deputy Director of Law Enforcement & Citywide Division Charlie Cotto, and Inspector Kevin Taylor Executive Officer, School Safety Division.

Campus Peace Officer Entry Level Graduation Ceremony

At York College, President Gregory Floyd congratulated and gave a celebratory speech to the officers.



(l-r) Academy Instructor Sgt. Thomas Rodriguez, CPO Kevin Bush, CPO Arnaldo Colin, CPO Ricky Cordero, CPO Geovanni Goldson, CPO Angela McLorrain, CPO Melissa Peña, CPO Richard Rosario, CPO Quanasia Thomas and President Gregory Floyd.



Local 237 President Gregory Floyd with University Director of CUNY Public Safety Andre Brown.

School Safety Graduation



SSA Demetrius Woodard with his mother DHS Lt. Jennifer Woodard and Charlie Cotto (center).

CUNY Grad



Congratulations to Valedictorian and newly graduated CUNY Public Officer Ricky Cordero at Lehman College. Officer Cordero stated he "Loves his job."

DHS Graduation



DHS, ACS, and HRA graduation with Martha Bodhnarain (l) and President Gregory Floyd (fourth from right) and Charlie Cotto (third from right).



(l-r) HRA Captain Carlos Thorbourne, President Gregory Floyd, DHS Deputy Inspector David Eddie, ACS Captain David Inshiquaq and HRA Sergeant Melvin Anderson.



(l-r) Charlie Cotto, Salutatorian HRA Officer Isiah Pride, President Gregory Floyd, Martha Bodhnarain, and Derek Jackson.



(l-r) Derek Jackson, DHS Officer Jamal Barksdale, and recently promoted Lt. David Santos, President Gregory Floyd and Charlie Cotto.

GRADUATES

Daniel Brathwaite (ACS)
Johnnie Garcia (ACS)
Davion Hines (DHS)
Jean Noze (DHS)
Isaiah Pride (HRA)

Devonne Simmons (DHS)
Steven Villalon (DHS)
Katrice Walker (DHS)
Demetrius Woodroffe (HRA)
Shartika Wright (HRA)

Police Week



May 19, 2023 Police Week, Lincoln Hospital.



Elmhurst Hospital Police Week Celebration.



Henry J. Carter Hospital Police Week Celebration. (l-r) Captain Alago, Sgt. Torres, Chief Hart, Sgt. Jusino, PO. Bonifacio, PO. Desir, Wp. Olivo, PO. Hutchinson, PO. Lopez, PO. Mehany and CEO Floyd Long.

Congratulations:
Believe, Achieve, Succeed!



LONG ISLAND REPORT

Puerto Rican Day Parade

June 4th, Brentwood

LOCAL 237 LONG ISLAND



ANNUAL LONG ISLAND EVENT *Everyday Heroes 2023*



Benny Carenza and Kristin Calo Dakin from Northshore School District.

Long Island annually honors exemplary members who go above and beyond helping other members and the union.



OTB honoree **Gwen Singleton** and **Gregory Floyd**.



Dr. Jeff Woodberry, Administrator for Half Hollow Hills; honoree and Half Hollow Hills member **John Facilla**, and **Benny Carenza**.



Josh Leidig from Town of Babylon and **Benny Carenza**.



Joann Grant from Brentwood Schools and **Benny Carenza**.



Benny Carenza and **Anthony Sancetta** from Brentwood Schools.



Anthony Zurieck from Town of Islip Resource Recovery.



Luann Dunne accepted an award for **Kareen Gaffney**, West Islip Schools.



Benny Carenza and **Diane Olszewski**, Plainview Old Bethpage School.



(l-r) **Dr. Jeff Woodberry**, **Doreen DiBartolo**, Half Hollow Hills School and **Benny Carenza**.



(l-r) **Benny Carenza**, **Lou Ferrandino**, from North Babylon schools and **Frank Bacchi** Assistant Superintendent for Business.

POLITICAL AND LABOR NEWS

Governor Hochul Announces Increase to Minimum Wage Plus Annual Increases As Inflation Increases



Governor Hochul announces raises to the minimum wage, which will be indexed to inflation.

At a union hall announcement site filled with more than 300 enthusiastic union members, Governor Hochul said, “When I’m in a room, it takes me back to my own family’s story. How my grandparents, my father’s parents grew up very, very poor in Ireland. They left as teenagers in search of a better life in America like so many others, so many of you, so many of your families. And they found work. My grandpa was a migrant farm worker in the wheat fields of South Dakota. Then they got jobs as domestic servants in Chicago...next they found their way to where they heard there were good jobs, making steel in a place called Buffalo. I know what being a member of a labor union and the dignity of that paycheck meant to my own family. It lifted them from poverty to the middle class. We benefited from fantastic public schools, and ultimately those poor grandparents became the grandparents of a woman Governor in the State of New York. That’s the story I want to babble to all of us, that they can be lifted out of their circumstances with a good union card from all the great unions that I’m proud to represent here in the State of New York. So, my gratitude goes to the labor leaders who are out there rolling up their sleeves, fighting for you every single day because we are joined in the same mission to help our people. They were great allies during our budget process when they spoke about you and your needs and what you need to get by in these really tough circumstances. I’m a mom. It’s really hard out there, and everything’s going up. And you know, who’s hit the hardest? Members of our great communities, who are so diverse, our black and brown communities are hit hard, a lot of single moms trying to make ends meet. They’re hit hard, working hard by the day and trying to figure out how to pay the bills with their kids at night.

So, the budget raises the minimum wage downstate up to \$17 an hour by 2026, upstate \$16 an hour. But one more thing. I thank the legislature, I thank Andrea Stewart-Cousins, the Majority Leader of the Senate, and I thank Carl Heastie, the Speaker of the Assembly, because we worked hard together “We have to do this.” We also said one more thing: If inflation keeps going up, all of a sudden, even a pay increase gets sucked away. Right? So going forward, after we get to this \$17 an hour, we’re going to index it to inflation. Inflation goes up, your paycheck goes up, and that’s what we’re going to do.” ■



CSBA Bargaining Update

By Saul Fishman

CSBA President

By the time this article appears in print, not only will summer be here (hopefully not a brutally oppressive one), but we will have had our next collective bargaining session. Whereas June 20th may not be our last session, I expect that we will have moved substantially closer to our next contract. The City is *finally* prepared to talk specifics with us on remote work now that they just nailed down many such terms with DC 37’s Work Flexibility Committee.

We remain determined to deliver as much telework as possible, as quickly as possible. City Hall is acutely aware that remote work is absolutely necessary to attract and retain us. Work-life balance and morale are key motivators for professionals in selecting a place of employment. Already, virtually every agency has seen a tremendous number of our colleagues leave for more flexible remote schedules, and usually for better pay as well.

We hear that agencies have been asked to submit their plans to implement remote work in a manner which maintains productivity. Based upon our title’s experience delivering high-quality, efficient, professional legal work during the pandemic, it should be easy enough for each agency to provide City Hall with such a plan, and to roll it out in a relatively swift, seamless manner. We will be monitoring the process carefully and will want your feedback where units are unreasonably resisting your participation in the program.

As both a difficult-to-recruit and hard-to-retain

title, we are also anticipating an Additional Compensation Fund boost to make our title more attractive. Will it be a tremendous amount above the pattern? Of course not, but we expect a good-faith effort to be made.

OLR has promised to provide, ahead of June 20th, the costing information needed to make important choices. We should be in a position to determine how and where we can enhance compensation by, for example, targeting Recurring Increment Payments (“RIPs”) beyond the contractual percentages, and how we can fund sufficient reserves to assure that welfare fund benefits continue as a needed supplement to our health insurance, and where possible, to become more generous.

As everybody who works for the City knows (and that’s all of us), nothing happens quickly or easily when dealing with OLR and their bureaucratic layers of approvals and reviews. Rest assured that the raises will be retroactive to the expiration of the previous agreement (April 18, 2021). Bargaining unit members who are onboard on the contract ratification date should receive the \$3000 ratification bonus.

As soon as we can arrive at a tentative agreement, you will be contacted, as will the American Arbitration Association, and we will conduct a safe and secure ratification vote. As always, you can find the latest CSBA news on our Facebook page, CSBA Attorneys, as well as on our website, www.csbanyc.org. Thank you for your continued patience and support! ■

In Solidarity, Local 237 Honors Dr. King

A delegation of Local 237 Teamsters visited the Clayborn Temple and “I Am a Man” Plaza in Memphis in April. Clayborn Temple was a crucial staging location where activists planned actions during the Civil Rights Movement and the 1968 Memphis Sanitation Workers strike, where Dr. King was assassinated. Teamsters Local 667, in Memphis, is currently fighting for a strong contract at Republic Services. The issues that Teamsters demand the waste giant address are the same that led to a strike 55 years ago: safety, wages, and respect. Teamsters strive every day to honor the legacy of Dr. King by fighting for justice and equality on the job — at Republic Services and every other Teamster employer. ■



Local 237’s: George Wade, Citywide Business Agent; Curtis Scott, Trustee on the Executive Board and Citywide Business Agent; Ruben Torres, Vice President on the Executive Board and Ken Roper, Business Agent, Housing Division.

O’Brien Appoints Torres

The International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT) General President, Sean O’Brien, appointed Ruben Torres, Local 237’s Vice President on the Executive Board, Assistant Director for the IBT’s Human Rights and Diversity Commission. ■



Ruben Torres (right) is pictured with Anthony Rosa, the Commission’s Director.



24th Annual Award Gala Honors Sean M. O’Brien & Maria Asley Alvarado



(l-r) Gregory Floyd, Teamsters Local 237 President and Vice President at-Large on the IBT’s General Executive Board; Ruben Torres, Vice President, Local 237’s Executive Board; Honoree, Sean O’Brien, IBT General President; and Donald Arnold, Local 237’s Secretary Treasurer.



Teamsters Hispanic Caucus Honoree Maria Asley Alvarado.

POLITICAL AND LABOR NEWS

On the Legislative Front:

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

City Legislation:

As the Summer begins, The New York City Council has remained hot 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 0039	Introduction	Committee	General Welfare	Borelli, Joseph C.	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 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 0276	Introduction	Laid Over in Committee	General Welfare	Ossé, Chi A.	De-escalation and trauma-informed training for dept of homeless services employees.
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 0467	Introduction	Committee	Civil Service and Labor	De La Rosa, Carmen N.	NYC agencies policies regarding work-related communications during non-work hours.
2022	Int 0508	Introduction	Laid Over in Committee	Health	Schulman, Lynn C.	Requiring family building benefits for city employees.
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	Laid Over in Committee	General Welfare	Rivera, Carlina	Child protective caseloads and workloads action plan.
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 0565	Introduction	Committee	Parks and Recreation	De La Rosa, Carmen N.	Creation of a COVID-19 memorial task force.
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, Nantasha M.	Maximizing efficiency at department of social services/human resources administration centers.
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	Int 0837	Introduction	Committee	Consumer and Worker Protection	Cabán, Tiffany	Wrongful discharge from employment.
2022	Int 0864	Introduction	Committee	Civil and Human Rights	Restler, Lincoln	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	Int 0874	Introduction	Laid Over in Committee	Civil Service and Labor	De La Rosa, Carmen N.	Health insurance coverage for city employees, city retirees, and their dependents.
2023	Int 0877	Introduction	Committee	Civil Service and Labor	Abreu, Shaun	Requiring an exit interview for departing and retiring municipal employees.
2023	Int 0907	Introduction	Committee	Civil and Human Rights	Brooks-Powers, Selvena N.	Information required in job listings.
2023	Int 0911	Introduction	Committee	Public Safety	Marte, Christopher	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.
2022	Res 0003	Resolution	Committee	Education	Brannan, Justin L.	DOE to install vape detectors in NYC public schools.
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 0105	Resolution	Committee	Public Housing	Avilés, Alexa	NYCHA Utility Accountability Act (A.1866/S.1603)
2022	Res 0106	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 0190	Resolution	Committee	Public Housing	Avilés, Alexa	NYS Legislature and Governor to provide their share of the additional three billion dollars annually, that must be reinvested into NYCHA in order to address capital needs resulting from decades of disinvestment in its building stock.
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	Laid Over in 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 0304	Resolution	Laid Over in Committee	Public Housing	Avilés, Alexa	Authorizing the NYC Council to oversee the activities of the NYC Housing Authority. (A.9414/S.5806)
2022	Res 0332	Resolution	Committee	Public Housing	Salamanca, Jr., Rafael	Require NYCHA to conduct annual evaluations of agency property employees.
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.
2022	Res 0415	Resolution	Committee	Cultural Affairs, Libraries, and International Intergroup Relations	Ariola, Joann	September 11 Day of Remembrance Act.
2022	Res 0416	Resolution	Committee	Education	Avilés, 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)
2023	Res 0554	Resolution	Committee	Education	Hudson, Crystal	Dept of Education to mandate bystander intervention training for all staff, educators and administrators, require annual training for students in grades 6-12, and resources for parents around the issues of harassment and bullying.

State Legislation and the End of Albany Session:

As the Summer begins, The New York City Council has remained hot 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:

• [S6477- Jackson/A7157- Pheffer Amato](#) (Passed Both Houses)

An act to amend the civil service law, in relation to providing home addresses of certain employees to employee organizations.

• [S4982- Ramos/A6604- Reyes](#)

An act to amend the labor law, in relation to protecting employee freedom of speech and conscience.

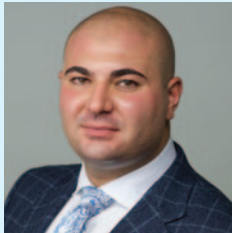
New York City Budget Negotiations

At the end of May, the New York City Council wrapped up a series of hearings in response to Mayor Eric Adams' proposed \$106.7B Executive Budget for fiscal year 2024. The Council heard from several city agencies who evaluated the resources made available and allocated to them in the proposed budget. The City Council and the Administration have differing views on how to best allocate the City's finances, with many of these disagreements stemming from the undefined economic impact of New York's response to the ongoing asylum seeker crisis.

While conducting a Q&A session at a forum held by the Citizens Budget Commission on Wednesday, May 31, the Director of the Mayor's Office of Management and Budget, Jacques Jiha, expressed concern that the looming June 27 City Council primary elections would delay budget negotiations between the Administration and the City Council. Council Member Justin Brannan, who chairs the City Council's Committee on Finance, has publicly rejected this notion and he is confident that they will successfully agree on a balanced budget by the start of the fiscal year on July 1.

City Council Primaries:

This year, all 51 New York City Council seats were up for grabs with newly redrawn districts. Primary winners will be on the ballot in the General Election on Tuesday, November 7th. ▮



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 Giorno LLC.

BILL STATUS:

Committee – This bill has been officially introduced and assigned to a committee, which has not yet held a hearing.

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.



Can Bankruptcy Help?

By Mary E. Sheridan, Esq.

Director of Local 237 Legal Services Plan

Are you drowning in debt? Feeling anxious and stressed out from nasty creditor phone calls? Have you tried and tried to pay your credit card debt and the balance never seems to change? You are not alone. Although the number of bankruptcy filings in the United States dramatically dipped during the pandemic, numbers have increased since the start of 2023. In 2022, the total bankruptcy filings was 387,721 compared to 777,940 in 2019. Federal pandemic aid ended in December 2022 and the number of filings was up 19% in January 2023.

Most individuals filing for bankruptcy file a Chapter 7 petition. People often refer to Chapter 7 filings as "liquidation" petitions. This is a bit of a misnomer, since bankruptcy laws protect certain assets such as some of the equity in your home and car, most personal belongings and household furnishings, and a certain amount of cash. In general, a Chapter 7 filing works to discharge most unsecured debt and secured debt, where you no longer have or want the security. Even income tax debt might be dischargeable in a Chapter 7 filing.

The Federal Bankruptcy laws requires complete disclosure of all debt, income and other assets. The process involves gathering a lot of documents and then your attorney will advise you on whether or not you qualify for a Chapter 7 filing. Sometimes, an individual's income will be too high to qualify or the income versus expenses allows for a certain amount of money to go to creditors. If this is the case, a Chapter 13 bankruptcy filing might be appropriate. In a Chapter 13, the individual must submit a payment plan to the Court for approval, for a time period of up to 5 years. A Chapter 13 may also be appropriate where someone is trying to save a home from foreclosure and reinstate his or her mortgage.

Remember — your Legal Services Plan is available for advice and representation where appropriate. Call (212) 924-1220. ■



A Save-the-Dates Notice for Two Summer Webinars

By David Bonington, CFP®

Financial Planner, Stacey Braun Associates, Inc.

Stacey Braun Associates has recently been hosting webinars on a variety of financial topics for several of the unions the firm works with. This Summer, it is Local 237's turn to enjoy three such presentations: one took place at the end of June, and two more will follow in late July and late August. Use of the "Zoom" program makes it easy for members to attend, and the 4pm start time should attract members who have Summer dinner-hour or evening plans.

Webinars usually last approximately 60 minutes. The number of listeners is likely to be too large to permit questions - but if the presentation raises questions, please schedule a private, confidential meeting with a Stacey Braun planner (see below). Your questions can then be addressed in the context of your circumstances.

I encourage you to put circles on your calendars for two dates as soon as you stop reading.

Tuesday, July 25 (4pm). Basics of Investing - Making Your Money Work For You. Every investor is different: special and even unique goals, different preferences and strategies, and varying degrees of risk tolerance. However, there are basic principles and guidelines which should form the foundation of any investing plan. Find out what they are. Learn how Cash in an Emergency Fund can generate meaningful interest in today's environment. Understand key differences between bonds and stocks, and make sure your "pie chart" reflects appropriate asset allocation. Learn how to invest for short-term, medium-term, and long-term purposes, and why

diversification and unemotional approaches to investing pay off.

Tuesday, August 29 (4pm). Credit and Debt Management. Although it is natural to want to avoid it, Debt is not automatically a bad thing. Certain Debt - "Good Debt" - can help acquire things (certification, a degree, a home) which would be nearly impossible to save for. However, debt incurred for other purposes (credit card debt, personal loans) can be costly, and can put pressure on a budget and delay other goals. This webinar will suggest ways to set a budget and minimize/reduce "Bad Debt," and will also point out the importance of maintaining a strong Credit Score. A checklist of suggestions may help bring a Debt Reduction action plan into better focus.

For the record, our June webinar, **Financial Planning Essentials**, contained a little something for members of all ages. But if you missed it, no worries - an annually refreshed version will return in 2024!

As helpful as we think webinars can be, there is still no substitute for the value one or more individual meetings with a Certified Financial Planner™ can provide. We hope to meet with many of you soon! Members must register on the Local 237 website. ■

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.



Avoiding Social Security Scams

By Thomas McMahon

District Manager, Social Security in Downtown Manhattan

The Social Security Administration and its Office of the Inspector General (OIG) continued to raise public awareness about Social Security imposter scams during the fourth annual "Slam the Scam" Day held in March. Social Security scams — where fraudsters pressure victims into making cash or gift card payments to fix alleged Social Security number problems or to avoid arrest — are an ongoing government imposter fraud scheme. For several years, Social Security impersonation scams have been one of the most common government imposter scams reported to the Federal Trade Commission. We've made concerted efforts to address this issue, through extensive outreach and investigative initiatives. These efforts have made a significant impact, reducing money reported lost to Social Security scams by 30 percent from 2021 to 2022.

"I am proud of the work we have done to combat Social Security imposter scams and raise public awareness," said Kilolo Kijakazi, Acting Commissioner of Social Security. "We will continue to use every tool at our disposal to protect the public and their critical benefits. We urge Americans to remain vigilant, do not give out personal information or money, and report any scam attempts." Scammers use sophisticated tactics to trick potential victims into disclosing personal and financial information. Typically, they use the five P's — Pretend, Prize or Problem, Pressure, and Payment. For example, scammers pretend they are from Social Security in phone calls or emails and claim there is a problem with the person's Social Security number. The scammer's caller ID may be spoofed to look like a legitimate government number. Scammers may also send fake documents to pressure people into complying with demands for information or money. Other common tactics include citing "badge num-

bers" and using fraudulent Social Security letterhead to target individuals for payment or personal information.

We will never:

- Tell you that your Social Security number is suspended.
- Contact you to demand an immediate payment.
- Threaten you with arrest.
- Ask for your credit or debit card numbers over the phone.
- Request gift cards or cash.
- Promise a Social Security benefit approval or increase in exchange for information or money.

Our employees do contact the public by telephone for business purposes. Ordinarily, we call people who recently applied for benefits, are already receiving payments and require updates to their record or requested a phone call from us. If there is a problem with a person's Social Security number or record, we will mail a letter.

"Working with our law enforcement and private sector partners to inform consumers about scammers and their deceptive practices remains a priority for my office. We will continue promoting National Slam the Scam Day to help protect consumers from these predators. Slamming the scam begins with consumers quickly taking a step to hang up the phone, or delete suspicious texts and emails, without responding to the scammers," said Gail S. Ennis, Inspector General for the Social Security Administration. "That remains the easiest and most effective method to avoid falling prey to these vicious scams."

To report a scam attempt, go to oig.ssa.gov. For more information, please visit www.ssa.gov/scam and www.ssa.gov/antifraudfacts. ■



In 2022 Identity Theft was the Number 1 complaint to the Federal Trade Commission!

- 15.4 Million US Adults were victims of Identity Fraud
- Consumer Identity Fraud Losses were a huge \$8.8 billion
- "Phishing" Attacks doubled to over 500 million

At Local 237 we take your Identity Management Seriously

With our partner **ID Resolution** we provide you with a **FREE** comprehensive program should your identity be compromised.

If you have concerns or questions and to learn more about the program, go to:

<https://idresolution.net/teamsters-local-237>

Think you're a victim? Call us at 877-308-9169



Resumen En Español

ARRANCANDO EL

Verano

El verano es el momento de deshacernos de nosotros mismos de la tristeza invernal. A medida que aliviamos nuestra vestimenta, también iluminamos nuestro espíritu.



Por Gregory Floyd

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

Para muchos, el Día de la Madre es la señal de que viene el verano. Maya Angelou dijo: *"No hay influencia tan poderosa como la de una madre"*. El expresidente Barack Obama le atribuye a su madre, diciendo: *"Lo mejor que hay en mí se lo debo a ella"*. Michael Jordan dijo que su madre era su *"mejor maestra, una maestra de compasión, amor y valentía"*.

Claramente, sabemos que las madres tienen un gran impacto, no solo en sus propios hijos, sino también en los de los demás. A lo largo de la historia, las madres de todo el mundo han desempeñado roles, tanto de guerreras como de asistentes, para sus hijos y para los demás. En nuestro país, protestando por la participación en Vietnam, por los conductores ebrios o por Black Lives Matter, y muchos temas más, las madres han liderado las marchas y sostenido las pancartas.

Eso mismo es real en el movimiento obrero. Por ejemplo, después de la muerte del presidente del AFL-CIO y prominente líder sindical nacional Richard Trumka, en 2021, la líder sindical de larga data y partidaria de "Moms Rising Together", Liz Shuler, asumió el cargo de presidenta, siendo la primera vez que una mujer tomaba el timón de la federación de sindicatos más grande y poderosa del país.

La pandemia había generado una oportunidad para nuevos movimientos en industrias que no se habían organizado anteriormente, movimientos también liderados por madres. Los sindicatos aportan el muy necesario camino para la protección y los beneficios de los trabajadores que son de particular interés para las mujeres, como la licencia de maternidad, el cuidado de los hijos y las vacaciones pagadas.

En ese sentido, Local 237 ha sido líder en la protección de los derechos de nuestras trabajadoras. En 2014, nuestra larga y ardua batalla fue ganada, lo que resultó en una demanda colectiva histórica basada en el género presentada contra la Ciudad de Nueva York en nombre de los Agentes de Seguridad Escolar, el 70% de los cuales son mujeres, en su mayoría negras y latinas, que realizan tareas similares a las de los oficiales de paz que trabajan para otras agencias de la Ciudad, el 70% de los cuales son hombres, pero que ganan aproximadamente \$ 7,000 más por año que sus contrapartes que trabajan en escuelas públicas.

Por lo tanto, tiene mucho sentido que el hecho de recordar a mamá en su gran día también sea tomado como el "inicio" no oficial de las alegrías del verano, cuando los árboles están en plena floración, las temperaturas suben, y estamos planeando las vacaciones familiares. El verano es el momento de deshacernos de las tristezas del invierno. A medida que aliviamos nuestra vestimenta, también iluminamos nuestro espíritu.

De hecho, hay gran cantidad de evidencia científica sobre los beneficios para la salud física y mental que trae el verano: la vitamina D que aporta el clima soleado es esencial para el mantenimiento de huesos y dientes sanos, y también demuestra tener un efecto positivo en la lucha contra múltiples enfermedades, como la diabetes y la esclerosis múltiple. Además, la evidencia demuestra que el verano puede tener un impacto positivo en el estado de ánimo, ayudando a revertir la depresión a menudo causada por el aislamiento social que los meses de invierno, el clima severo y las menos horas de luz del día pueden traer.

Entonces, ya sea si estás escuchando los sentimientos de Bob Marley cuando cantaba: "El sol está brillando. El clima es dulce. Haz que quieras mover tus pies bailando", o bien si estás siguiendo el consejo de los Beatles que cantaban "Pero mañana puede llover, así que seguiré al sol"; o el estribillo de Seals and Crofts: "La brisa de verano te hace sentir bien", el verano ofrece un respiro muy necesario para revitalizar, un recordatorio de la belleza que nos rodea, y los beneficios de tomarse el tiempo para "oler las rosas". ■

See You In September!

Labor Day Parade



Saturday, September 9

Local 237 Kick off at 11:30am

Meet at: West 45 Street, between 5th & 6th Avenues

Bring Your Family and Friends

Free Tee Shirts and Refreshments

TEAMSTERS LOCAL 237
RETIREE DIVISION
PENSION COUNSELING


Who should see the pension counselor?
Pension counseling is for members who are nearing eligibility for retirement.

When is Pension Counseling offered?
In person every Thursday, the union's pension counselor is available by APPOINTMENT ONLY for individual consultations. Telephone appointments are also available.

Is there a fee for this consultation?
There is no fee for this service. It is one of your Welfare Fund Benefits.

How do I make an appointment?
To make an appointment, call the Retiree Division at 212-807-0555.

For general retirement questions, members may call the Retiree Division at 1-212-807-0555, Monday-Friday 9am-5pm or via email at retirees2@local237.org



PERIODICALS
POSTAGE PAID
AT NEW YORK, NY

SUMMER 2023

DATED MATERIAL

Are you moving?

To change your address, fill in the form below, cut it out, and mail it back to Newsline at the above address.

Name _____

New Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

NEWSLINE

Local 237, IBT

216 W. 14 Street


New York, NY 10011



With Deepest Sympathy

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 wants to expand your technical skills.

By Shanell Grayson
Director of Training and Education



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

Life Post-Pandemic has thrust us into a digital transformation like never seen before. Whereas in the past being technologically able was a skill and a privilege, it is now a necessity. Those who struggle with their technical skills, despite having years of industry experience, often get overlooked and left behind. With this understanding, Local 237's Education Department has created a **Technical Skills for Civil Service Employees course**. The goal of this course is to teach our members digital skills that are directly applicable to their job title. After completion, members will receive a certificate that can be added to their employee file and professional resume, and is also a great way to show that they have the initiative to take their career to the next level! We hope that you take advantage of this wonderful new opportunity. To register for this, or any of the Education Department's **FREE** courses, scan the QR code below. As always, *we look forward to serving you!*

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Vijay Ramsaroop – Elevator Mechanic Helper
I came to the Education Department for help because I was disqualified from a civil service exam for Elevator Mechanic even though I had 10 years of experience. I tried to appeal on my own but was not successful. After reaching out to the Education Department, within a few months my appeal was reversed and I am currently being offered a promotion. Thank you to the Union and the Education Department for helping me!



Helen Davis – Assistant Superintendent
Teamsters Local 237 has been the biggest help to me since starting my NYCHA Career in 2016. Coming in as a Groundskeeper (Caretaker G), I've been able to utilize my membership to register and take courses as well as gain the materials and tools needed to meet the prerequisites for every promotional title afforded to me. I now successfully hold the title of Assistant Residential Buildings Superintendent. Thank you to the Local 237 Education Department.


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

• Associate Water Use Inspector (June)

• Maintenance Worker (June)

FREE COLLEGE AND SCHOLARSHIPS

• Free Associate's Degree Program

> Members and their families

> Unionplus.org/freecollege

• Teamsters International Scholarship

> High School Seniors

> JRHMS.org

• Union Plus Scholarship

> Members and their families

> Unionplus.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

• Basic Education Skills (July)

• Beginning Computer Skills (Sept.)

• Shop Steward Training (Sept.) (For current Shop Stewards)

• Technical Skills for Civil Service Employees (Sept.)

• Advanced Computer Skills (October)

• Fundamentals of Heating Plant Operations Course (October)

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSES

• Defensive Driving NY (August)

> 10% off insurance

> 4 points off license

• Wellness Wind Down (August)

Healing for the Mind, Body and Soul Including:

> 30 Minute Meditations

> Adult and Child CPR

> CRAZE - Civil Response to Active Shooter Events

> Modern Day Parenting and Gang Prevention

> Stress Reduction