



LOCAL 237 NEWSLINE

Vol. 60, No. 2

Summer 2026

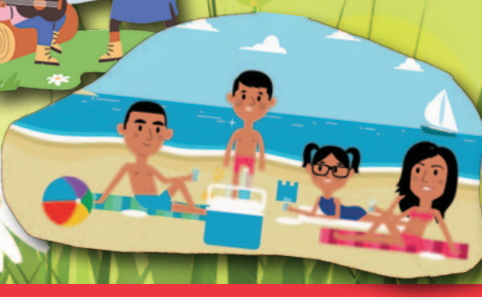
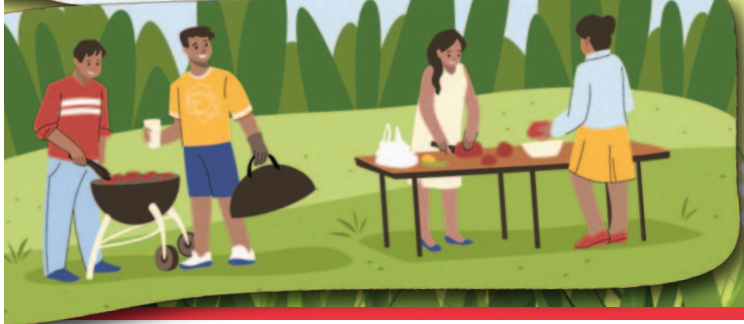
SUMMERTIME

Relax, Re-fuel, Re-energize and Re-connect



The famous opening words from George Gershwin 1934 opera classic, *Porgy and Bess*, sing out to us that **"Summertime and the Livin' is Easy- fish are jumping and the cotton is high. Your daddy's rich and your mum is good looking so hush little baby and don't you cry."** Summer is a time to rid ourselves of winter blues. It's when we lighten up our clothing and hopefully, lighten up our spirits too. Summer is a time to relax, re-fuel, re-energize, and re-connect with family and friends. Summer is when so many of us take some well-deserved "R&R". It's when the days are longer...and we change the thermometer from "heat" to "air condition". There's more day-light time to do the things we love without having to travel home in the dark or worry that the Weatherman's snowstorm forecast may cause a cancellation. In all, for many, Summer's sun brings optimism and calm thereby replacing the gloom and doom some experience during Winter's often long and frigid nights. Summertime encourages us to get outside more and literally, smell the roses. It's a time when we can't get enough of the words: "Play ball". Summertime is also good for your health with plenty of scientific evidence that attests to the physical and mental health benefits of summer and the self-imposed "time out" it inspires so many people to take. Scientists have long observed that the Vitamin D that sunny weather provides is essential for the regulation of calcium and phosphorus absorption, the maintenance of healthy bones and teeth, and also proves to have a positive effect in the fight

against many diseases, such as cancer, diabetes and multiple sclerosis. And research shows that summertime can help reverse the negative mood and depression often caused by the social isolation that winter months, severe weather and fewer hours of daylight can bring. So, let's take some inspiration from the words of Bob Marley when he sang: **"Sun is shining. Weather is sweet. Make you wanna move your dancing feet"**. Or, how about heeding the advice of the Beatles who warned: **"But tomorrow may rain, so I'll follow the sun"**. Seals and Crofts make the case that **"Summer breeze makes you feel fine"**. And Martha and the Vandellas sang **"an invitation across the nation, a chance for folks to meet... Summer's here and the time is right for dancing in the street."** And, as the lyrics written by rock guitarist Leon Russell and made popular by The Tempos, **"See you in September. See you when the summer's through."** But the song also warns: **"Have a good time but remember. There is danger in the summer moon above. Will I see you in September. Or lose you to a summer love?"** In other words: Relax, Refuel, Re-energize and Re-connect and when the summer ends and a new season is upon us, don't get stressed because at Teamsters Local 237 we look to the advice found in the Benny Goodman lyrics: **"Grab your coat. Don't forget your hat. But leave your worries at the doorstep Just direct your feet, to the sunny side of the street."**



Happy
Birthday
America!

This summer will feature a special occasion. July 4, 2026, marks 250 years since the Declaration of Independence was adopted in 1776. This document officially severed ties with Great Britain, which was then our parent nation. The signing of the Declaration of Independence was a crucial act that transformed a peoples' rebellion against the British monarchy of King George III into a formal quest for independence... thereby creating a whole new, separate, sovereign nation. By putting their names on the document, 56 delegates moved beyond mere protesters to creators of a new nation founded on revolutionary - unheard of ideas such as equality and natural rights. Signing this document was an incredibly dangerous and courageous act. The British viewed the document as illegal, and the signers knew their names on the parchment could lead to charges of high treason, punishable by torture and execution. The Declaration of Independence officially proclaimed the separation of 13 colonies from Great Britain,



and in so doing ended years-long the conflict that had included seeking reconciliation to establishing to a new country called the United States of America. John Hancock, who was President of the Continental Congress, as the group of 56 representatives was known, signed first and most boldly, making his name still used today as a symbol for a signature that could not be missed. The Declaration of Independence not only ushered in the birth of a nation, it also introduced many ideas - thought to be radical at the time - such as all men are created equal" and possess "unalienable rights," as life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" as well as a the concept that a government's authority comes from the people it rules, rather than from divine right or hereditary monarchs. So popular are the concepts of the Declaration that since 1776, that over half of the 193 nations in the UN have issued their own declarations of independence, modeled after the original signed parchment the created America. |

Local 237 Member Services

UNION HEADQUARTERS

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

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212-924-2000
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Derek Jackson, Director
Kangela Moore, Assistant Director

HOUSING, 2nd Fl.
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SPECIAL PROJECTS, 2nd Fl.
212-924-2000
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631-851-9800
100 West Main Street, Babylon,
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Benedict Carena, Director
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For information on the various
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Donald Arnold, Director
Susan McQuade, Coordinator

MEMBERS HEALTH, 2nd Fl.
212-924-2000
Susan McQuade, Director
smcquade@local237.org

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death benefits directly by the Fund's
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Len Proctor, Deputy Director

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The Local 237 Social Services Depart-
ment features free social work
services that are available to all
members. Social workers connect
people to much needed assistance
and resources. The union knows that
its members have tough jobs and
that when encountering tough per-
sonal challenges, learning about pos-
sible solutions to those challenges
would make things that much easier.
Contact us to learn about the many
services we can provide.
Karla Steinberg, MSW
Membership Social Worker

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a primary residence, wills, adoptions,
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Jennifer Hudson, Esq., Chief Attorney

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RUBEN TORRES
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Recording Secretary

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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
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212-924-2000
For grievances and job related
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Grievance Coordinator

CIVIL SERVICE BAR ASSOC.
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Saul Fishman, President
Lee Gordon, Esq.
Business Agent
CSBA Welfare Fund
Alicare 866-647-4617

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Editor Local 237 Newsline and
Editor, Retiree News & Views

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and educational advancement
opportunities for members.
Shanell Grayson, Director

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NYCERS
(New York City Employees
Retirement System)
By Mail:
30-30 47th Avenue, 10th Floor
Long Island City, NY 11101

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

General Information:
347-643-3000

Outside NYC toll-free:
877-6NYCERS

NYCERS website
<https://www.nycers.org>

BERS
(NYC Board of Education
Retirement System)
65 Court St., Brooklyn, NY 11201
(929) 305-3800

BERS website
<https://www.bers.nyc.gov>

**Social Security
Administration**
800-772-1213

**NY State and Local
Retirement Systems**
518-474-7736



By Gregory Floyd

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

Mother's Day was recently celebrated and as tradition has it, remembering mom on her big day is also known as the unofficial "kick off" to the joys of summer when the trees are in full bloom, temperatures are climbing, and family vacations are being planned.

Indeed, throughout our nation, Mother's Day included countless greeting cards and flowers sold and restaurant reservations being made on behalf of the first person who welcomed us into the world after a long 9-month wait. Over the years, some holiday acknowledgments have been happy, some, unfortunately sad, but all make an important statement of fact: "Mom made a difference in my life."

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 called his mother "his root, my foundation", while Stevie Wonder said, "Mama 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-worldwide-have played roles from warrior to waitress for their offsprings 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: Mothers Against Drunk Driving; Moms Demand Action; Moms United for Black Lives; Another Mother for Peace; Wall of Moms and Harlem Mothers S.A.V.E., to name just a few. In each, mothers made a difference for the better, fueled by their personal pain and instinctive empathy.

The same is true of the labor movement. Over the past decade, about 60 percent of newly organizing workers have been women. Women now are also the faces of some of the largest labor movements in years. 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 women. Back in 2021, the gender gap in union representation narrowed. About 10.6 percent of men are members of a union, compared with 9.9 percent of women, a proximity not achieved since statistics were recorded in the 1980s. Among the factors contributing to this narrowing gap is that unions can be a route to equal pay. Especially with approximately 25% of households nationwide now headed by a single parent—80% of whom are women, and 21% of children living primarily with a single mother, unions provide the much-needed pathway to worker safeguards and benefits that are of particular concern to women, such as maternity leave, childcare accommodations, paid vacations and so much more. In fact, studies have found that unionization tends to benefit women more than men, especially in eliminating pay disparity.

Trying to fight the fight without strong union backing can be a most exhausting, costly and disappointing struggle. Just ask another hard-working Alabama mom, Lilly Ledbetter, who unbeknownst to her, worked for over two decades in a Goodyear tire factory for lower wages than those doing similar work because of her gender. It was only when she was cleaning out her locker upon retirement that she discovered she wasn't being paid equally, thanks to an anonymous note slipped into

Message from the President

A DAY FOR MOTHERS

The heart of your family,
the soul of a union



(l-r) The late Corinthians Andrews, Bernice Christopher and Patricia Williams.

her locker. Lilly went on to fight the battle for pay equality for years, first filing a formal complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and later initiating a lawsuit under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Equal Pay Act of 1963. Although a jury initially awarded her compensation, Goodyear appealed the decision to the U.S. Supreme Court, which overturned the ruling on the grounds that her claim was filed too late — outside of the 180 days from first being employed as required by law. She received nothing. But Lilly persisted, and in 2009 President Obama, just nine days after being sworn into office, signed into law his first piece of legislation, the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act.

In our own union, Local 237, we fought and won an historic gender-based class action lawsuit too. We 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. Our union may have brought the legal action against the City but it was three School Safety Agents — Patricia Williams, Bernice Christopher and the late Corinthians Andrews — all mothers — who made personal sacrifices and persevered throughout years of court wrangling that resulted in equal pay for not only their co-workers, but for the retirees as well.

So, as we remembered mom on her big day, let's not stop after only one day. Let's continue to also think about the contributions that all moms make to help the world become a better place both inside and outside of their own family. Especially within the labor movement, mothers will always hold a special place. They are the soul. It's the Sisterhood alongside the Brotherhood working in partnership for all families helping not just to survive but to thrive. ■

... and let's not forget dad on his big day

Happy Father's Day



A time to remember,
celebrate and honor our
first and forever hero

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.

SSA Penida Aids Wounded Woman



School Safety Agent Shadia Penida who is a 13 year veteran of school safety aided a 24 year old women who was shot in the arm and running for shelter. A UAU worker from the after-school program brought the injured woman into P.S. 18, where Agent Shadia Penida helped the women until the police and EMS came on the scene.

Protecting the Next Generation



A student was arrested at Curtis High School in St. George after School Safety Agents allegedly found a firearm in his backpack, said police. This crime could have become a catastrophe. The SSAs worked diligently, escorting students down the stairs, going through book bags, and immediately securing the firearm in a safe location. They followed protocol from beginning to end. The SSAs involved were: SSA 3 Agostini, SSA Creese, SSA Parker, SSA Quaranta, SSA McManus, SSA Lewis, SSA Walton and SSA Brown.



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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.



For most of our national holidays, it's natural to wish someone a "Happy Day". Not this one. Memorial Day is a solemn occasion for honoring and mourning the men and women in our military who sacrificed their lives while serving in the United States Armed Forces. It's also a holiday that has a special flower associated with it. Red poppies. They were the only flowers that grew again in the war-torn battlefields of Europe after World War 1-a countryside left with nothing but mud and destruction. But poppies sprouted up and flourished. Their regrowth represents bravery and symbolizes hope.

As we pause to celebrate our 250th year as a nation, it is especially important to acknowledge the ultimate sacrifice made by so many brave American soldiers and also to thank the soldiers who continue to fight on to help protect our freedoms and the way of life we desire and serve.



MEMBERS IN THE NEWS Law Enforcement Division

So many of our members distinguish themselves by their professionalism on the job. Here are some of their pictures and stories.



The Bronx UFT Office honored SSAs for excellent work throughout the school year. Attended by **Charlie Cotto** (l), Local 237 Director of Operations, Law Enforcement and Citywide.



Officer Villion and **Officer Caryle** work at Baruch College providing a safe environment for students, staff and visitors.



Sergeant Bush and **Officer Moses** at City Tech college.



Congratulations to **Auxiliary Lieutenant Joseph** and **Sergeant Maldonado** on their promotions. The community of the 122 thanks these dedicated volunteers for their countless hours helping the community.



Shop Steward and **CSA Silva** with **Chief Bailey** at Medger Evers College.



ACS Officers **Arnaud**, **Johnson**, Officers **Billingsly**, **White** and **Moore**.



PS 57 hosted both Career Day and a groundbreaking ceremony for the new school yard. It was a wonderful day celebrating our students, community, and the exciting future ahead. (l-r) **Rodrick Palton**, Superintendent; **Charles Fall**, Assemblyman; **SSA Tabor**; **ASSS-II Lightsey**; **Jessica Scarcella Spanton**, NYS Senator; and **Michael McMahon**, Staten Island District Attorney.



(l) **Karla Steinburg**, Local 237 Social Worker at Queens College discussing union benefits.



Harlem Hospital morning roll call, present for duty are: **Lt. Osorio**, **Officers Williams**, **Rushin**, **Martinez**, **Allred**, **Silencieux**, **Mays** and **Anderson**.



Officers Ray and **Hamza** distribute safety materials at York College.

Celebrating Women's History Month

Harlem Hospital celebrates Women's History Month with **Captain Supall**, **Captain McKnight**, **Captain Whyte** and **Sergeant Roman**.



Officers providing a safe environment at Henry J. Carter Hospital. **Captain Carter**, **Sgt. Mayer**, **Officers Toussaint** and **Moise**.



CSA Hemayet welcomes students, faculty and visitors at LaGuardia Community College with a smile.



Henry J. Carter celebrates Women History Month with **Lt. Hicks-Johnson**, **Officer Desir** and **Officer Bonifacio** with **Kangela Moore**, Assistant Director and Business Agent of Law Enforcement Division.

Law Enforcement Division *Continued*



(l-r) SSA Charles "Chaz" Greene was honored by the The New York City Council for his outstanding service and achievements pictured with NYC Council Member Althea Stevens.



SSA Charles Greene (c) with students and Charlie Cotto (r).



Staten Island celebrated the retirement of SSA Sabrina Todaro (PBSI) after 25 years of service. Her consistent helpful nature in all aspects of school safety will be missed. Thank you for being you. Enjoy retirement!



Outreach Donation Drive



(l-r) A representative of Covenant House, Sergeant Mario Diaz and Sergeant Lee.



Frank Rella, Law Enforcement Business Agent; Jamil Ahmed and Derek Jackson, Director of Law Enforcement Division.



(l-r) Officers Galazia, Rodriguez and Lt. Orr at Queens Borough Hall creating a safe environment for all attendees.



The Staten Island Sunshine committee delivered packages with all the trimmings for the Easter holiday, showing the love and support all of us on this island trying to make everyone's holiday a little bit better.

All in the Family

We are very proud of the accomplishments of Local 237 members and our members are very proud of the accomplishments of members of their own families. Here are some family achievements shared with us:

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES



SSA-3 Jenay Garner's son Jaleel Mack graduated from Albany University with his Bachelor's in Criminal Justice.



On May 11, 2026 Nyaila Kenya Elmore, daughter of SSA3 Terence Elmore graduated from Brooklyn Law School receiving her JD (Juris Doctor). The commencement was held at Brooklyn Academy of Music.

A Book Is Launched "From The Heart"

The book "From the Heart" features letters of love from the late Ron Shafran addressed to his family, who collected and stored them for over half a century in a clothing closet. According to Phyllis Shafran, Local 237's Director of Communications and Political Coordinator, who worked to have the book published, "these writings give profound lessons on love and life and that were just too important to remain hidden treasures." Ron Shafran started his career as a High School teacher, and went on to become an advertising executive, a government relations authority in the health care industry, as well as a deputy commissioner under Mayor Ed Koch. Few people, other than family, knew that all the while, he was also a prolific poet. However, according to his son Austin Shafran, his most notable role was that of a kind father and grandfather. At the recent book launch — well attended by family, long-time friends and Teamster co-workers — it was announced that the book would be available on Amazon and Barnes & Noble on-line as well as via eBooks.



(l-r) Teddy, Jenn, Mason, Austin, Phyllis and Denise Shafran.



SCAN FOR INFO

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS Public Housing Division

So many of our members distinguish themselves by their professionalism on the job. Here are some of their pictures and stories.

Throggs Neck Houses



Timothy McNeal, Supervisor of Grounds doing the first cut of the summer, making the grounds look beautiful.

Astoria Houses



Fredrick Diaz, Caretaker J



Mickaya Howlett, Caretaker J

LaGuardia Houses



Brenda Mitchell, Caretaker X



Jeffrey Ferguson, SOG



Jennifer Rivera, Caretaker G and **Tomorrow Burke**, Caretaker G



Ryan Garrison, Caretaker X (in truck), and **Omar Persaud**, Helper Caretaker G



Shanise Hicks, Caretaker X

Bronx River Houses



Bronx River staff, Supervisors of Grounds, Supervisors of Caretakers and Caretakers stand in unity.

Coney Island Surfside Houses



Ms. Irada Gonzalez, Caretaker J says it was a tough winter season and she is welcoming the new season with warm weather.



Ms. Esmoral Gidson, Caretaker J says the warm weather can't come soon enough. She is looking forward to enjoying Summer.

Pink Houses



(l-r) **Mr. Peter Hightower**, Caretaker J and **Ken Franco**, Housing Business Agent. A new season with new things to look forward to as summer approaches.

Butler Houses



Congratulations to newly appointed Assistant Superintendent of Butler Houses, **David Feliciano**.

Van Dyke Houses



Ms. Angela Purcell, Assistant Superintendent is looking forward to a change of season.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS Citywide Division

So many of our members distinguish themselves by their professionalism on the job. Here are some of their pictures and stories.



Gregory Floyd (c), President, Teamsters Local 237 at NYPD Brooklyn Property Clerks office.



(l-r) **Gregory Floyd** and **Charmaine Carryl**, a union proud Liaison who works for NYPD as an Evidence and Property Control Specialist.



(l-r) Stock Worker **Sharee Bunch** North River Water Treatment Plant with **Curtis Scott**, Citywide Business Agent and Local 237 Executive Board Trustee.



DEP Stock Workers at North River Waste Water Treatment Plant.



(l-r) **Gregory Floyd** with Evidence and Property Clerk Specialist.



Kevin Chambers, Cook at H+H Culinary Center.

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) **Carl Giles**, Director of Housing presents retirement plaque to **James (Pop) Young**, Caretaker J, after 21 years of service.



(l-r) **Captain Richard Echevarria** retired from Lincoln Hospital with **Charlie Cotto**, Local 237 Director of Operations, Law Enforcement and Citywide.



(l-r) **Jeanette Taveras**, Local 237 Executive Board Recording Secretary and Law Enforcement Business Agent; **Sgt. Polonia** retired from Lehman College; and **Kangela Moore**.



(l-r) **Michelle Evans**, Manager; **Lisa Cunningham**, retired Housing Assistant from the Lease Housing Department with 39 years of service in NYCHA; **Jaleesa Moye**, Business Agent; and **Mohammad Karim**, Assistant Manager.



(l-r) **Lt. Marin** retired after 25 years of service. Picture with **Kangela Moore**, Assistant Director and Business Agent of Law Enforcement.



(l-r) **Bianca Jones**, Citywide Business Agent with **Linda Nemard**, retired Evidence and Property Control Specialist Level II with OCME (The Office of Chief Medical Examiner).



(l-r) **Derek Short**, Law Enforcement Business Agent; **Lt. Mark Campbell**, DCAS Police Brooklyn Commanding Officer, retired after serving 22 years; and **Derek Jackson**, Director of Law Enforcement.



(l-r) **Jaleesa Moye**; **Marsha Davis**, Assistant Manager; **Wanda Bonano**, retired Housing Assistant from the Lease Housing Department with 29 years of service; and **Evelyn Innis**, Manager.



(l-r) **Bianca Jones**; **Charmaine Berry**, retired DEP Water Use Inspector; and **Curtis Scott**, Citywide Business Agent and Local 237 Executive Board Trustee.



(l-r) **Kangela Moore**, retired **Officer Woodson**, retired **Lt. Collins**, and **Derek Jackson**.

Congratulations to Graduates and Those Promoted and Recognized for Their Accomplishments

CUNY Public Safety Graduation



CUNY Campus Peace Officer Graduates of Class 02-25

Leroy Adams — LaGuardia Community College
 Jason Adison — Queens College
 Dominick Albino — Kingsborough Community College
 Ricky Art — York College
 Essence Aytch — Brooklyn College
 Justin Camacho — City College of New York
 Kevin Clarke — NYC College of Technology
 Gilbert Garcia — College of Staten Island
 Anesa Gomes — York College
 Jesus Gutierrez — Bronx Community College
 Cameron Hassan — College of Staten Island
 Michael Hernandez — Bronx Community College
 Sean Hilliard — Queensborough Community College
 Daniel Juarbe — NYC College of Technology
 Pjal Purkaystha — Queens College
 Jeremy Rivas — Borough of Manhattan CC
 Isabella Romano — Queensborough Community College
 Kristyan Samuels — Kingsborough Community College
 Devin Suarzo Almonte — Bronx Community College
 Shikynak Vaz — Medgar Evers College

DHS, ACS, HRA, OCME GRADUATION



(l-r) Derek Jackson, Director of Law Enforcement; Larry Bosley, Esq., Local 237's Sr. Counsel; Celine Soto, Valetictorian; Jaylen Ortiz, Salutatorian; Martha Bodhnarain, Esq., Local 237's Sr. Counsel; and Charlie Cotto, Local 237 Director of Operations, Law Enforcement and Citywide.



(l-r) Derek Jackson; Larry Bosley, Esq.; SSA Hernandez from PBBxWest with son DHS Officer Manuel Alicea; Martha Bodhnarain, Esq., and Charlie Cotto.

DHS Police Medal Day 2026

10 YEARS
 PO Dashawn Alexander
 SGT Ajamu Barry
 SGT Jerome Bennett
 PO Darren Brown
 SGT Brandon Bullock
 SGT Raven Clemente
 SGT Yve Cyriaque
 PO Roger David
 PO Ernst Desrameaux
 SGT Michael Diaz
 PO Nnamdi Eneanya
 PO Mahogany Foy
 PO Lawrence Goldfarb
 PO Juvonne Gray
 PO Renee Henry
 PO Piddlip Hibbert
 PO Anthony Hodge
 PO Gee Wah Hwee
 LT Deshawn Irby
 SGT Latoya James
 SGT Selena Keitt-Spencer
 SGT Kyria Lane
 PO Okechi Nwachukwu
 PO Tiff Any Piper
 SGT .Andrene Reid
 PO Tyrone Robinson
 CAPT Freddie Rodriguez
 DET Tonya Simmons
 SGT Ricardo Van-Reil
 PO Jewel White
 SGT Amos Woods
 SGT Takiera Young

20 YEARS
 SGT Roxanne Aquart
 PO Kirk Baldwin
 CAPT Ebony Chance
 LT Jorge Ocasio
 SGT Edward Pinkston
 SGT Peter Weston

25 YEARS
 PO Michael Grant

EXCELLENT DUTY HONOREES
 PO Lymik Boyd
 CAPT Robert Diaz
 PO Michael Dunn
 PO Sabrina Kane
 CAPT Amy Kelly
 PO Amari Laidlow
 SGT Joel Pichardo
 PO Tiff Any Piper
 PO Jeffery Richardson
 SGT Maria Theresa Rodriguez
 PO Devonne Simmons
 CAPT Kashena Stukes
 PO Jermaine Vincent
 PO Allen White

OFFICER OF THE YEAR
 SGT Michael Rupp
 PO Joshua Fax

SERGEANT OF THE YEAR
 SGT Vanessa Cooper
 SGT Kim Stevenson

MERITORIOUS DUTY
 SGT Amos Woods
 PO Daniel Del
 LT Tracy Finnerty
 SGT Jamal Barksdale
 PO Christian Andrea
 PO Jose Asti

COMMENDATION
 PO Messiah Frazier
 PO Javonne Caldwell
 PO James Reina
 PO Richard Jones
 Anthony Stasi
 Assistant Commissioner
 Nana Tsuladze
 Program Administrator
 SGT Steven Burgos
 SGT Vantina Trumble

UNIT CITATION
 Ana's Place

HUMANITARIAN
 PO Jewel White

MEDAL OF VALOR
 SGT Patrice Smith
 PO Margie Arrufat
 PO Anthony Graham
 LT Freddie Rodriguez

PROMOTIONS 2025
 Captain
 Hector Cruz
 Freddie Rodriguez
 Kashena Stukes

Lieutenant
 Haydee Acevedo
 Tyquithia Cotton
 Tasha Diaz
 Tiffany Randolph

Sergeant
 Joynul Abedin

Detective
 Damion Fearon
 Christopher Lagos
 Amari Laidlow

SSA GRADUATION

COMPANY 26-01
 OCE: SSA-3 Anderson-Robinson
 Isaiah Alvarez
 Courtney Atherley
 Christine Bostic
 Breiana Burns
 Shanyah Campbell
 Anthony Castro
 Lanaishya Cole
 Ajay Dey
 Roberto Ferreira
 Gregory Foy
 Elijah Frett
 Rebekah Hayes
 Shernette Huggins
 Tynisha Knight-Passley
 Latia Lancaster
 Santos Martinez
 Deanna Mcalister
 Genesis Montas
 Sultana Rahman
 Janyse Redonet
 Danaisha Rodgers
 Kathleen Rosario
 Sterling Sanchez
 Janices Solis
 Cindy Vargas
 Malik Williams

COMPANY 26-02
 OCE: SSA-3 Vereen
 Patrick Agyarko
 Lironise Andre
 Sherryann Bastaldo
 Fredrick Boateng
 Krystal Brown
 Vivian Burton
 Eric Carino
 Guiseppi Cespedes
 Taliyah Cooper
 Andrew Cutrone
 Jerry Dieudonne
 Jillian Fidler
 Devonaye France
 Nia Haynes
 Kelsey Jimenez
 Ulysse Laguerre
 Stacy Ann Levy
 Urissha Maldonado
 Frank Martino
 Olga Morales
 Stephanie Polanco
 Brandon Ramos
 Shana Renee-George
 Darrius Ruiz
 Laquan Scott
 Laisha Solis
 Daniel Stine

COMPANY 26-03
 OCE: SSA-3 Santiago
 Shahinur Akter
 Adam Betancourt
 Shaniece Bolden
 Evelyn Bueno
 Tanijah Calloway
 David Carrillo
 Alicia Crippen
 Charles Daniels
 Deniah Davis
 Mervina Ferdinand
 Chantay Fletcher
 Jhanna Hernandez
 Antonio Johnson
 Olique Lockhart
 Amanda Martin
 Ashley Matias
 Shanelle Murray
 Marquise Patterson
 Danielle Puran
 Shelcey Ramos-Medina
 Wandy Rodriguez
 Jayden Thompson
 Valerey Vincent
 Lester Williams

GRADUATES AT 4WTC



ELMHURST HOSPITAL PROMOTION



(l-r) Newly promoted Lt. Hasan with Captain Valentine.



Valedictorian SSA Wandy Rodriguez with his family joined by Commanding Officer Cindy McNeil and Derek Jackson.

Celebrating Hospital Police Week

NORTH CENTRAL HOSPITAL



ELMHURST HOSPITAL



COLER HOSPITAL



LINCOLN HOSPITAL



SOUTH BROOKLYN HEALTH CENTER



JACOBI HOSPITAL



WOODHULL HOSPITAL



HARLEM HOSPITAL



Harlem Police Officers celebrate Police Week at Harlem Hospital with Derek Jackson (l), Director of Law Enforcement and Kangela Moore (r) Assistant Director and Business Agent of Law Enforcement.



Hospital Police Officer Anderson serenades the attendees at Harlem Hospital with his rendition of "When the Saints Come Marching in".

METROPOLITAN HOSPITAL



Hospital Police at Metropolitan Hospital Celebrates Police Week with Kangela Moore (second from right) and Derek Jackson (right).



(l-r) Sergeant Wilton and Derek Jackson.

QUEENS HOSPITAL



Detective Ramos; Frank Rella, Law Enforcement Business Agent; Captain Modesi; and Lieutenant Jones.

KINGS COUNTY HOSPITAL





LONG ISLAND REPORT

Happy Retirement: Lisa, Paula and Anthony



(l-r) **Cathy Rice**, Long Island Business Agent and Trustee on the Executive Board; and **Lisa Smiegel**, cashier at Suffolk Off-Track Betting getting ready for the Kentucky Derby, the first leg of the elusive Triple Crown. The Kentucky Derby, May 2, 2026, was Lisa's last day, she is retiring after 43 years of service. Wishing her a Happy Retirement!



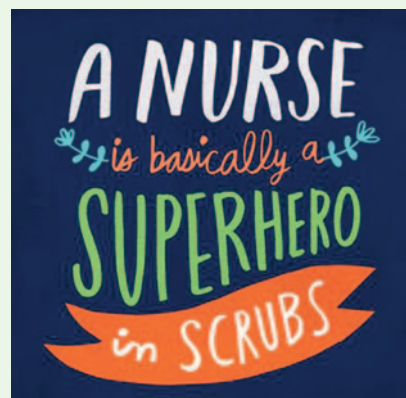
(l-r) **Benny Carenza**, Director of the Long Island Division and Trustee on the Executive Board; and **Paula Pignaturo** who retired from Plainview Old Bethpage School District as an Aide after 27 years on the job.



Anthony Zureick retires from the Town of Islip Resource Recovery Unit after 35 years of hard work. We wish him the best in retirement! The top photo is Anthony with his retirement plaque along with his wife and son. The picture is **Anthony Zureick** (center) with fellow resource recovery members and **Benny Carenza** (left).



(l-r) West Islip School District Buildings and Grounds Liaison, **Chris Conza** doing a great job for the members. He is one of the many great skilled Liaisons I am proud of. Pictured with **Benny Carenza**.



National Nurses Day is celebrated annually on May 6th to honor the dedication, contributions, and critical role nurses play in healthcare. It marks the beginning of National Nurses Week, which runs through May 12th — the birthday of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing. Thanks for all you do!



Happy School Bus Driver Appreciation Day! All of you provide an awesome service to the kids and the communities. It's not an easy job but much appreciated. Thank You!



Brentwood St. Patrick's Day Parade



We all had a blast at the Brentwood St Patrick's Day Parade. Thanks to all of the members who came out. You are the best and we love the support!

Oceanside High School Career Day



The Suffolk County Police Department, FBI, Department of Labor, Oceanside Fire Department and Teamsters Local 237 participated in Career Day for an extremely great group of students seeking career development and paths. It was well attended by students possibly choosing Blue Collar positions as a career. **John Gallagher**, Long Island Business Agent pictured in first photo.

Teamsters Support BLET Local 269

Teamsters Local 237, and other local's turned out at rally to support BLET Local 269 and the Long Island Railroad Coalition for a fair contract.



In first photo on the right: (l-r) **John Gallagher**; **Gregory Floyd**, President, Teamsters Local 237 and International Vice President-at-Large on the General Board of the IBT; and **Demos P. Demopoulos**, Secretary-Treasurer and Executive Officer, Teamsters Local 553 and Secretary-Treasurer, Teamsters Joint Council 16.

POLITICAL AND LABOR NEWS

Local 237 President Gregory Floyd Urges City Council to Hire More SSAs



Center: Oswald Feliz, Public Safety; and Eric Dinowitz, Education.

Teamsters Local 237 President Gregory Floyd recently attended a hearing at City Hall held jointly by NYC Council Committees on Education and Public Safety. The testimony he was prepared to give reported the dangers of School Safety Agent understaffing. Due to extremely long, multiple-hours delays in the proceeding, President Floyd submitted his written testimony into the record.

His testimony is:

"As you know, Local 237 represents over 24,000 members who work in all the city's municipal agencies, including the city's public housing facilities, public hospitals, schools and colleges, homeless shelters, ACS facilities, and almost all other municipal agencies.

"This afternoon I am here on behalf of the 3,600 school safety agents who, despite being massively understaffed and short-handed, continue to bravely ensure the safety and security of public-school students and staff. Historically, our ranks have numbered 5,500, but today we face a shortage of roughly 2,000 agents. The nearly 30 percent drop is owed to the pandemic, attrition and the inexplicable cancellation of training classes. As a result, our force is badly depleted and our schools, students and staff, are at extreme risk.

"The shortage in safety agents has also made it harder to perform basic perimeter patrols during school arrivals and dismissals and makes it difficult to keep school campuses open on nights and weekends to accommodate extracurricular activities.

"This is not news or a problem no one saw coming. It is an acute crisis that has unfolded over the last 5 years and has been underscored by increasing instances of violence and assault perpetrated against teachers, principals, students and our badly unnumbered agents.

"Despite the increasing threat to public safety in our schools, along with the skyrocketing cases of hate crimes, the past administration and the New York City Council chose to ignore the problem.

"Indeed, I provided testimony to this City Council at a hearing in January 2021 about the impending dangers caused by a shortage of school safety agents, hoping this legislative body would not allow a reduction in the workforce. But it was at this hearing that a decision was made to cancel a class of 500 School Safety Agents and not hire additional agents for at least two years, creating the shortage we have now.

"And today, we have arrived at the very place I pleaded with the City Council not to allow us to reach - an overworked and outmanned safety agent force, and crisis in our schools.

"The significant rise in violent incidents in public schools has been accompanied by the recovery of over 6,000 weapons. Taken together, with the escalation of conflicts around the world and our City as a primary target for terror, I would think the City Council would want its school safety agents at full strength.

"I strongly urge this City Council not to double down on its past mistake and do everything in its power to restore school safety agent staffing levels to pre-pandemic levels. They represent the frontline in the protection of schools, students and communities, and they deserve to have the respect and support of the City they serve.

"Thank you for the opportunity to address these committees today, and I am more than happy to take any of your questions. ■

Annual Pennsylvania Conference of Teamsters



Sean O'Brien, Teamsters General President greets attendees to the conference including Ruben Torres, Local 237 Executive Board Vice President (seated second from the left) and Gregory Floyd, Local 237 Executive Board President and International Vice President-at-Large on the General Board of the IBT. (seated third from the left). ■



By Saul Fishman

President, Civil Service Bar Association (CSBA)

Soon Summer Sizzles; CSBA Members Energized in Anticipation of Next Round of Bargaining

A record number of candidates have been nominated to join the Civil Service Bar Association's Board of Directors. No fewer than twelve individuals have stepped forward to run for the seven CSBA Board of Director positions Class of 2029. The surprise is because we have Director elections for seven three-year terms every year and normally have to persist behind the scenes to get a full and representative slate to step forward. To the best of my recollection, dating back to my joining the CSBA Board in 1987, there have never been seven new candidates, above and beyond the incumbents seeking reelection, being nominated, seconded and accepting the nomination.

We view this marked participatory increase as a demonstration of interest in our next round of bargaining, as our current contract expires on October 17th. As everyone should have received our CSBA Member Survey by now, please be assured that your opinions and priorities are valued by yours truly and the Bargaining Committee and indeed by our entire Board of Directors. For members who may be relatively new to our union, no contract can be finalized without a vote by the entire membership. We always utilize the services of the American Arbitration Association to conduct and supervise the entire process, assuring the highest standards of election integrity.

Bargaining with the City is neither quick nor easy. No contract can be finalized until the City establishes an economic "pattern" via a contract with one of the largest municipal unions, typically DC 37. Nonetheless, we are filing a Demand for Bargaining well ahead of time, as per the rules of the Office of Collective Bargaining, in order to make as much progress ahead of time on issues and concerns unique to Agency Attorneys.

So, respond to the survey ASAP (if you haven't already done so). We will be discussing the results at our Annual Meeting on Tuesday June 23rd. Then enjoy the Summer!

Rest, relax, recharge, and return reenergized for what promises to be an interesting autumn (and probably winter) of bargaining for the first time with the Mamdani administration.

P.S. - Please promptly reach out to us (csbainfo@local237.org) if there is an issue in your unit, at your work location and/or agency that we should be made aware of. The sooner we know about the situation, the quicker we can reach out and attempt to resolve it! There are four of us here (at least part-time) at the CSBA office. We also work closely with Local 237, especially on Health & Safety issues. Summer: Think air conditioning! Enjoy and don't be a stranger! ■

Council Member Morano visits IS75 and PS53



(l-r) Officer Coddle IS75 in SI with Frank Morano, NYC Council Member representing Staten Island's District 51.



(l-r) NYC Council Member Frank Morano with SSA Maurent.

Frank Morano was invited to PS 53 for Civics For All Week to speak with our 5 graders. He discussed his roles and responsibilities as a Council Member, his journey in politics and how he enjoys working closely with the communities. He encouraged the children to get involved in leadership opportunities and share their voices. Everyone agreed it was a great visit. He made sure to stop and thank School Safety Agent Maurent for the job she does at PS 53.

City and State Budget Negotiations Make for a Busy Spring

By Vito R. Pitta, Esq.

The New York State budget was approved by the state legislature on Wednesday, May 27th. Since it was 58 days late, negotiations over the New York City budget got a late start, so the New York City Council's Executive Budget hearings are just beginning.

Despite the uncertainty about the City budget, there are many state items that should be of interest to Local 237 members, along with some City issues on which we can still report. Throughout this busy spring, President Gregory Floyd continued to fight for the safety, healthcare, and employment stability of sister and brother members.

School Safety Agents

That fight was clearly demonstrated with President Floyd's submission of very strong and compelling testimony on behalf of Local 237's 3,600 School Safety Agents to an April 29th City Council meeting examining school safety and crossing guard operations in the City's public schools. Convened by the Chair of the Education Committee, Council Member Eric Dinowitz, and the Chair of the Public Safety Committee, Council Member Oswald Feliz, the meeting examined the turnover of school safety agents and the deployment of crossing guards across the public school system.

President Floyd's testimony illustrated the demands and risks assumed by our ranks of understaffed and short-handed school safety agents, and how that has added to the safety concerns of agents, students and school staff. As President Floyd referenced in his testimony, the ranks of school safety agents have numbered 5,500, but today, we face a shortage of roughly 2,000 agents. That shortfall has made it harder to perform basic school perimeter checks and makes it extremely difficult to keep school campuses open after normal school hours to accommodate extracurricular activities.

Though the lower headcount of school safety agents can be attributed in part to the impact of the pandemic and normal attrition, President Floyd brought to the Council's attention that this was an acute crisis that unfolded over the course of the last 5 years and despite the increasing rates of violence committed against teachers, principals, students, and agents, the City chose to ignore the problem.

"Indeed, I provided testimony to this City Council at a hearing in January 2021 about the impending dangers caused by a shortage of school safety agents, hoping this legislative body would not allow a reduction in the workforce. But it was at this hearing that a decision was made to cancel a class of 500 School Safety Agents and not hire additional agents for at least two years, creating the shortage we have now," wrote President Floyd in his testimony.

President Floyd demanded in his testimony to the City Council that they not double-down on their past mistake and urged them to do everything in their power to restore school safety agent levels to pre-pandemic levels. Fortunately, he was joined in his urgent appeal by the Chairs of both committees and the other Council Members, who challenged the representatives from both the Department of Education and the NYPD School Safety Division throughout the four-hour meeting. The Chairs and Council Members shared numerous anecdotes about one agent being left to secure a school of 1,000 students, and students made late to class because of massive delays with unmanned or broken metal detectors and scanners.

President Floyd reminded the Council Members in his testimony that school safety agents are on the frontline in protection of schools, students and the communities they serve, and are deserving of their respect.

Buffer Zones

This past April Mayor Mamdani allowed City Council law, Intro 1-B, to become law, establishing buffer zones around houses of worship. The law requires the NYPD to establish security perimeters to guard against protest-driven obstruction or intimidation at houses of worship. Despite concerns about violations of the first amendment and the right to public protest, the law was passed by the City Council with a veto-proof majority.

A similar City Council bill, Intro 175-B, which would have established buffer zones restricting protests around educational facilities, was vetoed by Mayor Mamdani, who referenced the same constitutional concerns over the passage of Intro 1-B, and the overly broad definition of educational institutions. In instances of both laws, City Council Speaker Julie Menin and a majority of the City Council believed public safety outweighed constitutional concerns.

Instead of attempting to override the veto of Intro 175-B, the Speaker, along with Council Member Elsie Encarnacion, introduced a scaled down version of the bill – Intro 175 – which they hope will pass the City Council with a veto-proof majority. The narrowed bill would limit the establishment of protest buffer zones to only public and private K-12 schools, and early childcare centers, and exclude colleges, museums, libraries and teaching hospitals.

Further complicating the landscape, the state legislature approved a sweeping buffer zone law proposed by Governor Hochul. The state law contrasts with the City law allowed to pass by Mayor Mamdani in that it establishes a 50-foot security zone around houses of worship and education centers in anticipation of a protest. The law makes it a Class B misdemeanor for protestors that engage in conduct that causes an individual a reasonable fear for their safety. The law also has a broader definition of houses of worship and encompasses community centers and schools used for religious services and observance. Opponents of the restrictions are sure to seek legal challenges.

All this legislation could prove integral to the workplace safety and the rights of Local 237 members. We will continue to follow this issue and work with President Floyd to ensure the protection of all members.

Tier 6 – "Fix the Six"

As part of the pending state budget, Governor Hochul and lawmakers approved additional reforms to Tier 6. After teaming up in a long advocacy campaign with public sector unions, the Governor, along with Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie and Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, improved the benefits and made additional fixes for the public employees hired after April 1, 2012.

All public employees hired after April 2012, including Local 237 NYCHA employees, school safety officers, Health and Hospitals employees and campus peace officers will see a boost to their pensions, along with thousands of public-school teachers who will see their retirement age lowered from 63 to 58, after 30 years of service. The effort to "Fix the Six" is in response to the controversial reforms made to Tier 6 in 2012, which cut pension benefits, and raised the retirement age to 63 from 55 for teachers, and 62 for other civil servants.

These changes, which would benefit over 487,000 employees hired after 2012, come on the heels of other recent revisions - in 2022, the vesting period was reduced to 5 years from 10, and in 2024 the salary calculation was modified to be more generous.

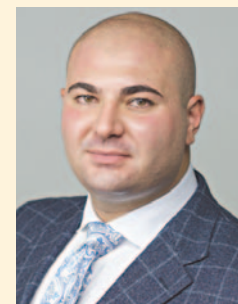
As our Local 237 members know, these reforms are negotiated with the intention of navigating the delicate path between addressing local governments' struggle to recruit and retain public employees and the State's ability to cover the costs. We believe this budget does much to address those concerns while helping to rectify the unjustness of the 2012 reforms to Tier 6.

NYCHA Chelsea Complex/Isaacs-Houses in Yorkville

Because of a lawsuit that accused NYCHA and its private partners, Related Companies and Essence LLC, of circumventing regulatory reviews, an appeal court in March paused demolition of the NYCHA Chelsea Complex. A hearing for the lawsuit is scheduled for late May, but the effort could further delay the plan to demolish and rebuild 2,000 public housing units in Chelsea, which was scheduled to begin in December 2025.

Residents of the Isaacs Houses in Yorkville in late March voted to reject the two financial mechanisms to fund millions in repairs. Opting to remain in the existing Section 9- NYCHA funding, residents participating in the 30-day election declined to accept either the Housing Preservation Trust or the RAD-PACT program, both of which raise money for public housing repairs through private investors. The 61-year-old Isaacs Houses was the first NYCHA complex in Manhattan to hold a vote, one of eight citywide. The election results thus far have been mixed with some complexes voting to stay in Section 9 and others opting for Trust or PACT.

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.





RAPID RESPONSE TEAM

FOR I.C.W.U.C.

WWW.ICWUCRRT.COM

A New FREE Member Benefit
offered by Local 237



DOWNLOAD FOR IPHONE



DOWNLOAD FOR ANDROID



WHAT IS THE RRT?

The Rapid Response Team (RRT) is a service designed by I.C.W.U.C. It is a free legal and investigative service offered to our members. This program is dedicated to protecting the rights of union members and their families after suffering from serious work-related injuries.

WHAT DOES THE APP DO?

If injured at the workplace, this app helps document the event.

- Record Witness Statements
- Document Details
- Take Photos
- Submit Report

1-833-RRT-4-HELP

eyoung@young-lawgroup.com
www.icwucrtr.com



"Summer-izing" An Important Benefit

By David Bonington, CFP®

Financial Planner, Stacey Braun Associates, Inc.



Sorry – I couldn't resist. For this issue, the Editor reminded contributors that Summer is a season to "recharge, relax, and reconnect." But if there is a financial issue blocking your path to these three wonderful Summer of '26 goals, it might be helpful to make use of the financial counseling benefit you enjoy.

- Meetings with a Stacey Braun counselor are covered by the union.
- Members receive up to six (6) hours of annual consultation time on a range of financial topics.
- Meetings are held with a Certified Financial Planner® and all discussions are confidential.
- The goal of a meeting is to either help a client structure (or tweak) a basic plan, or to offer assistance to a member with a specific questions, problems, or issues.

On these terms, it would seem like there is no reason to not hold a meeting. But sometimes anxiety or apprehension gets in the way. Let's look at four (all incorrect) assumptions which might lead one to avoid a meeting:

1. **Somehow, I will have to pay for this.** FALSE! There is never a charge for even one minute of consultation time.
2. **For 45 minutes, the meeting will be great - but then the Planner will put intense pressure on me to buy products I don't understand.** FALSE! Stacey Braun planners have nothing to sell. There is no "hidden agenda" to get you to purchase anything.
3. **Financial topics are hard enough as it is. The Planner will bury me under an avalanche of terms and formulas, and at the end of the hour I'm going to be even more confused than before.** FALSE! Planners are skilled at determining the level of background knowledge a client has. They have experience breaking down complex topics and tailoring comments, ideas, and suggestions in ways which leave clients better informed and, where possible, with a refreshed outlook and game plan.
4. **I'm sad/fearful/ashamed that I have poor budgeting skills or a huge debt management or tax problem, and it will be humiliating to reveal this.** FALSE – at least if the Planner can do anything about it. Meetings are blame-free and judgment-free zones. (As I tell clients struggling over self-inflicted situations, "There is no one in this meeting who hasn't made a mistake. The main thing is to come up with a plan to address the source of the trouble.")

My advice? If a faulty assumption is holding you back, set it aside and schedule a meeting. If a financial issue or problem is pressing, schedule a meeting. Those 90 days of Summer will be upon us soon, and will pass quickly. As the Editor observes, Summer should be a time where you can recharge, relax, and reconnect. If Stacey Braun can assist you, the firm is here to help. ■

Free, confidential telephone or Zoom sessions with a Stacey Braun planner can be arranged by calling 1-888-949-1925. No financial products are sold and there is no sales pressure.



Buyers Beware: Changes to Buyers' Broker Commissions

By Rebecca Engel

Deputy Director of Local 237 Legal Services Plan

In August 2024, a class action settlement by National Association of Realtors took effect. The goal - create transparency and negotiation of buyers' broker fees. The purpose - eliminate buyers being steered towards properties with higher commission rates.

The key points: Buyers are now required to sign a written commission agreement determining what their broker gets paid at closing, sellers are no longer required to pay buyers' broker fees, and the MLS system is no longer allowed to advertise the commission amount or percentage a seller is willing to pay to buyer's broker.

In January 2025, the Real Estate Board of NY added NYC requirements making it mandatory for buyers to sign written agreements, and agents must state that commissions are not set by law and are fully negotiable.

Reflecting on the last 1 ½ years since this change, the Legal Services Plan has seen that instead of driving realtor fees down and fostering transparency and negotiation, broker commissions have increased and buyers have signed unfavorable commissions agreements, prior to making an offer.

HOW CAN BUYERS PROTECT THEMSELVES?

- 1) Brokers should never ask a buyer for a nonrefundable deposit upon signing. This is not standard; buyers should not agree to this.
- 2) Buyers should negotiate with broker before signing a commission agreement for broker to be paid no more than 2% at closing (less if possible). We have seen 3% since the law change, inflating what buyers' brokers received prior to the change.
- 3) Buyers should be clear about the "exclusive duration window" before signing. Buyers will be asked to commit to working exclusively with their broker for a period of time; typically up to 6 months.
- 4) Finally, buyers need to understand their finances and closing expenses to best negotiate with the seller up front regarding payment of their broker fees. Prior to the law change, sellers typically paid all of buyers' broker fees in NY. As this must now be negotiated as part of your offer, it is important to discuss with your broker to ensure your offer clarifies who is paying buyer broker fees. Your offer should include clear language regarding whether seller is paying all broker fees; buyer and seller are splitting buyer broker fees, including amount each is paying; or buyer is paying all buyer broker fees.

For example: If Buyer has an accepted offer to purchase home for \$800,000 and is paying their own broker fees of 2%, this will increase buyer's closing costs by \$16,000 – a lot of money. Increasing the offer to \$816,000 and having the seller pay the fees allows Buyer to finance most of the increased cost, rather than paying out of pocket at closing. Negotiating for a seller closing credit which, depending on amount, could reduce or eliminate extra closing costs of Buyer paying their own broker fees.

The Legal Services Plan is available to you to offer suggestions and information regarding your exciting journey to home ownership. Contact our office: 212-924-1220. ■



Summertime Fun That Won't Break the Bank

By Karla Steinberg, MSW

Membership Social Worker

Summer is finally here (remember the 40-degree days in May??) and higher temperatures are upon us. Not to be outdone, *inflation has entered the chat*. Gas prices are up approximately 28.4% from where they were at this time last year, (according to Yahoo! Finance) and economists are predicting that they will stay high for the foreseeable future. You may be wondering how this will impact your summer plans, and I'm here to help.

There are a lot of lower cost activities right here in the 5 boroughs. The Culture Pass program run through the NY Public Library offers FREE ACCESS to *many* NYC museums with your library card. You can also utilize this through the Brooklyn Public Library, or the Queens Public Library. These passes are released at midnight on the first of every month, and for the following month (6/1 release for month of July).

If you're looking to spend more time outside, you've got Central Park, Coney Island Beach and Boardwalk, Orchard Beach has volleyball games, you can go kayaking on the Bronx River (or the Gowanus Canal). Some parks offer free yoga (Corlears Hook Park, Randall's Island Park to name a couple), or Zumba classes (Gotham Park). There's Shakespeare in the Park if you're looking to take in some no-cost theater.

If you have a little to spend and want a change of scenery, you could plan a day trip by train via the Metro North to Beacon and enjoy the views of the Hudson River and the mountains. Or you could hit up the Dia Beacon Museum and submit a Dia Beacon Free Admission request before you go. Becoming a tourist in your own city can be a way to re-connect with your surroundings, with nature, in a way that we often take for granted. Or maybe you want to hike or have a picnic at Bear Mountain (you can get there via train or bus in about one hour). There's also Mount Beacon if you enjoy a steeper, more anxiety-producing climb.

Surrounding yourself with nature has been proven to reduce stress, lower blood pressure, and has other benefits for mental health. And you don't have to go too far to enjoy. For some people, the Jacqueline Onassis Reservoir in Central Park is enough. The key is to change it up, and maybe refamiliarize yourself with your city, without breaking the bank to do it. Whatever you choose to do, I hope you stay safe, stay hydrated, and enjoy your summer. If you want more help brainstorming ideas on how to stay cool (literally, and figuratively), I remain available. I look forward to speaking with you. Contact our office: 646-638-8608. ■



Summer Health Tips & Benefits Reminder

By Diana Nappi

Director of the Welfare Funds

TRAVELING THIS SUMMER?

- Bring enough prescription medications for your trip • Pack your medical, prescription, and dental ID cards • Check your out-of-area coverage • Mail-order prescriptions may help avoid last-minute refills • Keep your medications in your carry-on — *just in case* • Take a picture of your id's and save it on your phone.

PROTECT YOUR MEDICATIONS IN THE HEAT

- Do not leave medications in hot cars • Store prescriptions as directed • Stay hydrated—especially if taking heart or blood pressure medications.

STAY ON TRACK WITH PREVENTIVE CARE

- Dental visits- Great time to get your dental cleaning. Keep your smile—and your health—on track. Routine dental cleanings help prevent cavities, gum disease, and more serious health issues. The good news? Your Fund benefits cover preventive care, so there's no reason to delay. A simple visit now can help avoid bigger problems later.

PRACTICE SUN SAFETY

- Use sunscreen (SPF 30 or higher) • Wear hats and sunglasses • Limit sun exposure during peak hours

KEEP YOUR INFORMATION UPDATED

- Notify the Fund if you are traveling or relocating to ensure you receive important updates.

STAY ACTIVE

- Walking • Swimming • Strength training • Consistency is key—keep moving!

WATCH FOR IMPORTANT UPDATES

Keep an eye on your mail for upcoming benefit information and reminders.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT THE WELFARE FUND OFFICE

212-924-7200 welfarefund@local237.org ■

VERANO

Relajarse, recargar energías, revitalizarse y reconectarse



Las famosas palabras iniciales de la ópera clásica *Porgy and Bess*, compuesta por George Gershwin en 1934, nos recuerdan que: **"Es verano y la vida es fácil; los peces saltan y el algodón está alto. Tu papá es rico y tu mamá es bonita, así que, silencio, pequeño, no llores"**. El verano es una época para dejar atrás la tristeza del invierno. Es cuando usamos ropa más liviana y, con suerte, también aligeramos el ánimo. El verano es una época para relajarnos, recargar energías, revitalizarnos y reconectarnos con familiares y amigos. El verano es cuando muchos de nosotros nos tomamos un merecido descanso. Es cuando los días son más largos... y cambiamos el termostato de "calefacción" a "aire acondicionado". Hay más horas de luz para hacer las cosas que nos gustan sin tener que regresar a casa en la oscuridad ni preocuparnos por la posibilidad de que el pronóstico de una tormenta de nieve obligue a cancelar nuestros planes. En definitiva, para muchas personas, el sol del verano trae optimismo y tranquilidad, y reemplaza así la tristeza y el pesimismo que algunas experimentan durante las noches de invierno, a menudo largas y frías. El verano nos anima a salir más y, literalmente, a detenernos para oler las rosas. Es una época en la que nunca nos cansamos de escuchar las palabras: "¡Que comience el juego!". El verano también es beneficioso para la salud. Existen abundantes pruebas científicas de sus beneficios para la salud física y mental, así como de los efectos positivos de la pausa que inspira a tantas personas a tomarse. Desde hace mucho tiempo, los científicos observan que la vitamina D que nos proporciona el clima soleado es esencial para regular la absorción de calcio y fósforo y mantener huesos y dientes saludables. También se

ha demostrado que tiene un efecto positivo en la lucha contra numerosas enfermedades, como el cáncer, la diabetes y la esclerosis múltiple. Asimismo, las investigaciones demuestran que el verano puede ayudar a revertir el mal humor y la depresión que suelen provocar el aislamiento social de los meses de invierno, las condiciones climáticas severas y la menor cantidad de horas de luz. Por lo tanto, inspirémonos en las palabras de Bob Marley cuando cantaba: **"El sol brilla. El clima está agradable. Dan ganas de mover los pies al ritmo de la música"**. O quizá deberíamos seguir el consejo de los Beatles, que advertían: **"Pero mañana puede llover, así que seguiré al sol"**. Seals and Crofts sostienen que: **"La brisa del verano te hace sentir bien"**. Y Martha and the Vandellas cantaban: **"Una invitación que recorre toda la nación, una oportunidad para que la gente se reúna... El verano llegó y es el momento indicado para bailar en la calle"**. Y, como dicen las letras escritas por el guitarrista de rock Leon Russell y popularizadas por The Tempos: **"Nos vemos en septiembre. Nos vemos cuando termine el verano"**. Pero la canción también advierte: **"Diviértete, pero recuerda: hay peligro bajo la luna de verano. ¿Te veré en septiembre o te perderé por un amor de verano?"**. En otras palabras: relájense, recarguen energías, revitalícense y vuelvan a conectarse. Y cuando termine el verano y comience una nueva estación, no se estresen, porque en el Local 237 de Teamsters seguimos el consejo que aparece en la letra de Benny Goodman: **"Lleva tu abrigo. No olvides tu sombrero. Pero deja tus preocupaciones en la puerta. Simplemente dirige tus pasos hacia el lado soleado de la calle"**.

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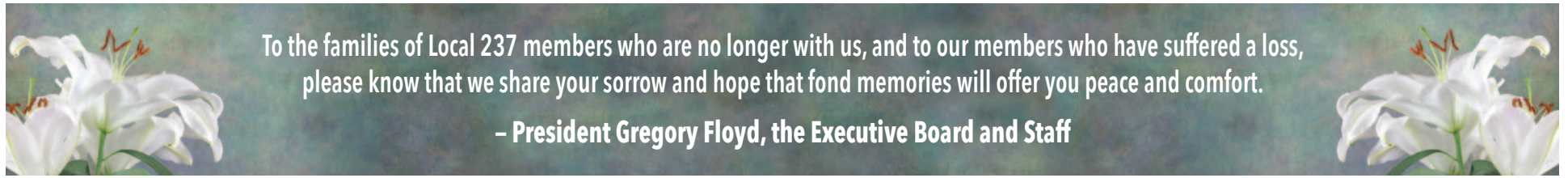
¡Feliz cumpleaños, Estados Unidos de América!

Este verano habrá una ocasión especial. El 4 de julio de 2026 se cumplirán 250 años desde la adopción de la Declaración de Independencia en 1776. Este documento rompió oficialmente los lazos con Gran Bretaña, que por entonces era nuestra nación de origen. La firma de la Declaración de Independencia fue un acto fundamental que transformó la rebelión del pueblo contra la monarquía británica del rey Jorge III en una búsqueda formal de la independencia... y dio lugar a la creación de una nación nueva, separada y soberana. Al estampar sus nombres en el documento, 56 delegados dejaron de ser simples manifestantes y pasaron a convertirse en los fundadores de una nueva nación basada en ideas revolucionarias, inauditas en aquel momento, como la igualdad y los derechos naturales. Firmar este documento fue un acto increíblemente peligroso y valiente. Los británicos consideraban que el documento era ilegal, y los firmantes sabían que sus nombres en el pergamino podían dar lugar a acusaciones de alta traición, castigadas con tortura y ejecución. La Declaración de Independencia proclamó oficialmente la separación de 13 colonias de Gran Bretaña y, al hacerlo, puso fin a

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
250TH

1776-2026

años de conflicto que habían pasado de los intentos de reconciliación a la creación de un nuevo país llamado Estados Unidos de América. John Hancock, quien era presidente del Congreso Continental, como se denominaba al grupo de 56 representantes, firmó primero y con los trazos más llamativos. Por ese motivo, su nombre todavía se utiliza en la actualidad como símbolo de una firma imposible de pasar por alto. La Declaración de Independencia no solo marcó el nacimiento de una nación, sino que también introdujo numerosas ideas que en aquel momento se consideraban radicales, como que "todos los hombres son creados iguales" y poseen "derechos inalienables", entre ellos "la vida, la libertad y la búsqueda de la felicidad", así como el concepto de que la autoridad de un gobierno emana del pueblo al que gobierna, en lugar del derecho divino o de las monarquías hereditarias. Los conceptos de la Declaración se volvieron tan populares que, desde 1776, más de la mitad de las 193 naciones que integran las Naciones Unidas han emitido sus propias declaraciones de independencia, tomando como modelo el pergamino original firmado que dio origen a Estados Unidos de América. ■



To the families of Local 237 members who are no longer with us, and to our members who have suffered a loss, please know that we share your sorrow and hope that fond memories will offer you peace and comfort.

– President Gregory Floyd, the Executive Board and Staff



Thinking About Retirement?

By Julie Kobi, LMSW

Director of the Retiree Division

Setting a target retirement date is an exciting first step toward a new chapter in life. It's an opportunity to reflect on your goals, focus on what matters most, and begin planning the future you envision for yourself and your loved ones. Retirement is a personal decision, and only you can decide when the time feels right.

We invite you to join one of our pre-retirement seminars, held twice a year via Zoom. These seminars take place over two evenings and are designed to provide helpful information and support as you prepare for retirement.

During the first session, participants will receive an overview of Local 237 benefits, Legal Services Plan, and a step-by-step retirement guide designed to make the process easier to navigate.

The second session features representatives from NYCERS, who will provide important information about your pension plan, buying back service, setting up your MYNYCERS account, and much more.

Our next seminar will be held October 2026. Please check the Local 237 website this fall for additional details and registration information.

Planning for retirement can feel both exciting and overwhelming, but it can also be one of the most rewarding transitions in life. Whether you are planning to retire in a month or a year from now, the Retiree Division staff are here to support and guide you every step of the way through the process. The Retiree Division can be reached at 212-807-0555 or via email at retirees2@local237.org

Here's what pre-retiree Susan B. has to say about her road to retirement:

"I'm retiring! It's very exciting but also a bit daunting. There are lots of forms to fill out and choices to make.

"Fortunately, I have the gang at the Local 237 Retiree Division supporting me guiding me. I attended several seminars they offered over the last year, and cannot say enough about how clear and wonderful each speaker was. They presented a lot of information in ways that made it less intimidating. They just explained everything and guided me through the process."

"I also took advantage of the union's invitation to come in and meet with a Retiree Division team member who went through all the forms with me —it was invaluable. I don't know how I would have navigated the road to retirement without them. Many thanks to the Local 237 Retiree Division. You are the best!"



The Education and Training Department hopes you have an awesome summer!

By Shanell Grayson Director of Training and Education

This school year we were proud to serve so many of our members. We've hosted over 40 unique classes and trainings, and nearly 2,000 students in our Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 courses. We are grateful to our members, instructors, and staff for their dedication and participation.

While you are enjoying summer break, the Education Department will spend time brainstorming, creating, and revising our schedule in time for the fall. Some upcoming summer events include our first of two Shop Steward Trainings in late-May. In June, we will be graduating 63 students from our Heating Plant Technician course. Also, in July, after the Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) uploads its yearly exam calendar, we will design civil service study classes to assist our members in passing exams and earning promotions.

Time is precious and finite. Make the most of this summer break; travel to someplace new, read that book on the nightstand, go to a concert in the park, or simply take a nap under a tree on a sunny day. All that matters is that you take time for you.

See you in the fall, and, as always, we look forward to serving you! ■



(l-r) Thomas Kelly and Adrian Kelly, Local 237 Plasterer.

Congratulations to the 2025 Teamster Scholarship winner, Thomas Kelly! Thomas, son of Local 237 plasterer Adrian Kelly, won a whopping \$10,000 towards his tuition. He is attending University at Buffalo and majoring in civil engineering.

2025 HPT STUDENT MENTORS



(l-r) Frank Pettaway, Assistant Director; Shanell Grayson, Director; 2025 graduates: Tyrone Diamond, Jasmine Dennis, Uniqua Godley, Stephanie Williams, Abel Johnson, Jamel Lightfoot, Margaret Littlejohn; and Krzysztof Wasik, Instructor.

This month several 2025 Graduates of Local 237's Heating Plant Technician (HPT) Certificate Course returned to give the upcoming 2026 Class some encouraging words. They shared valuable insights about what to expect in the interview process as well as keys to successfully performing the role of an HPT. Our partnership with NYCHA is helping our members earn promotions while ensuring residents have heat and hot water.

Education Department's FREE Courses

CIVIL SERVICE EXAM PREP CLASSES

- CUNY Sergeant (June)
- Maintenance Worker/Bridge Exam (June)
- Taxi and Limousine Inspector (June)

Upcoming civil service exams to be posted in July on the DCAS website.

Visit nyc.gov/examsforjobs for details.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSES

- Shop Steward Training #1 (May)
- For current Shop Stewards **ONLY**
- Shop Steward Training #2 (September)
- For current Shop Stewards **ONLY**

SCHOLARSHIPS

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

COURSES AT PARTICIPATING UNIONS

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

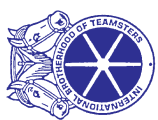
Scan the QR Code to register now.



Email: training@local237.org

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSES

- Defensive Driving NY (September)
 - > 10% off insurance
 - > 4 points off license



NEWSLINE
Local 237, IBT
216 W. 14 Street
New York, NY 10011

SUMMER 2026

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 _____ Zip _____

New Address _____ State _____

City _____