

THE GAUGE



I.U.O.E LOCAL 891

AFL-CIO

AUGUST 2020

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

VARIABLE RATE

Unit Value for July 2020
\$109.662

COVID-19 SAFETY GUIDELINES

PRINCIPAL RATING

Members are reminded they only have 30 days to grieve a Principal's Rating. Any member wanting to grieve a rating should contact their Borough Chairperson.

RENEWALS

Please be aware of your licenses and permits renewal dates. Apply and renew on time to avoid fees and disciplinary actions.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Brothers and Sisters,

Our Local 891 family is in mourning for two active members who died in the same week of July. Paul Roberts and Steven Lukic each had young children. They had long battled different health conditions and ailments. Their families need our help. Please consider making a tax-deductible contribution to the Local 891 Beneficiaries Fund. The Fund will match all contributions.

Now, almost five months since the City closed the Public Schools to all students and non-essential staff, nowhere near enough progress has been made with the plan to possibly bring everyone back in September. That is not surprising considering how quickly the virus is spreading in other parts of our nation that have attempted to restart parts of their economy. The goal is to bring students back, if at all possible, for the most in-person schooling the students can receive while keeping them and the staff safe. I'll keep you updated as the situation evolves.

I know many of you share the same concerns as the parents, students and staff as to whether this is a good idea. Many of you have questions about who will care for your own children; with no good answers to those questions. Most importantly I know that you're concerned with being able to provide a safe school environment with the inadequate funding provided by the Department of Education. When you formulate your Annual Plan, do not make promises you can not keep. Predicate any services you provide as being conditional on adequate funding. Explicitly state that in your plan!

Enjoy the rest of the summer because if the buildings are reoccupied in the Fall you will not be able to meet the unreasonable demands placed upon you and your staff.

We all know it is not easy to continue to perform day to day with all the uncertainties of the Covid-19 pandemic. Please do all you can to keep yourselves and your loved ones safe by following all the guidelines and precautions set forth by the experts.

Remember that all Local 891 officials and resources are still available for you to utilize. Contact us by phone or email with any concerns or issues. Anyone with questions or concerns about "reasonable accommodations" should contact me directly at the office 718.455.9731 or on my cell at 917.887.1350.

Please stay updated by checking your emails frequently for important information and updates. Below are links to some of the emails that I have sent out during the month of July:

[July 3 - Correction to July Gauge](#)

[July 13 - Education and Training Fund Registration](#)

[July 17 - Covid-19 Reasonable Accommodation](#)

[July 23 - The holiday Eid al-Adha](#)

[July 28 - Fundraiser for Families of Paul Roberts and Steven Lukic](#)

[July 29 - DCAS Appeal Letters for Custodian Engineer Exam 9013](#)

[July 30 - Fox News Interview with Business Manager President Troeller](#)


 I N
 M E M O R I A M


PAUL ROBERTS
ACTIVE CE, K364

CONDOLENCES TO:
 LORRAINE ROBERTS, (SPOUSE)
 130-01 230TH STREET
 LAURELTON, NY 11413



STEVEN LUKIC
ACTIVE CE, K103

CONDOLENCES TO:
 LISA LUKIC, (SPOUSE)
 87 MAPLE STREET
 CROTON ON THE HUDSON, NY 10520



*Local 891 has lost two active members who were both young men with young children in their family. Each had long battled different illnesses and ailments. Local 891's Beneficiary Fund will be accepting donations on behalf of the Roberts and Lukic families. We are asking our Brothers and Sisters to do whatever they can to assist their families at this difficult time. Local 891's Beneficiary Fund will match each donation dollar for dollar. Mail your donations to: **IUOE Local 891's Beneficiary Fund, 63 Flushing Avenue, Building 292 Suite 401, Brooklyn, NY 11205.***

Our deepest sympathies are with the Roberts and Lukic families at this time.

Fraternally,

Robert



COMMITTEE REPORTS

BLOOD BANK

Evan Manca - Blood Bank Committee Chairperson

REMINDER

Please be mindful, the things you do outside of working hours, including social media can have a direct effect on your employment!

BLOOD DRIVE RESCHEDULED

The Local 891 blood drive **has been tentatively scheduled for September 4th, the Friday of Labor Day weekend. PLEASE NOTE THIS IS NOT A FIRM DATE.** All three sites are confirmed opened at the moment, this may be subject to change. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the donor centers had very few blood donations. They will be in need of donors to help repair the blood shortage. Please make every effort to attend the September drive and continue to make Local 891 a success.

Please donate at any of the following centers.

1. Melville Donor Center, 905 Walt Whitman Road, Melville, NY 11747
2. Staten Island Donor Center, 2791 Richmond Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10314
3. Local 891 Union Hall at The Brooklyn Navy Yard.

GOOD AND WELFARE

Theresa DiCristi - Good and Welfare Committee Chairperson

Brothers and Sisters,

I am sad to announce the passing of Active CE Paul Roberts K346/364 on July 20, 2020. Condolences to his wife Lorraine and to his family and friends. A Widow's Care is in place with Steve Carbone (K007) stepping up as the first CE to cover Paul's assignment. The Widow's Care continues for Michael Ortiz (X009) and for Maurice Jones (K208) as well. Thank you to Rocco Marano, Brooklyn Borough Chairperson and Mike King, Bronx Borough Chairperson for helping to coordinate these coverages. Thank you again to all those who very generously sent in donations for the Ortiz family. It was greatly appreciated by his wife Bonnie and his two girls. Hoping you and your families enjoy the rest of the summer - stay safe and be well!!

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH/SAFETY

Joanne O'Neill - Occupational Health/Safety Committee Chairperson

COVID-19 safety: Tips for Travel, Restaurants, the Gym and more

As communities lift stay-at-home restrictions, it's important to keep taking steps to protect yourself from COVID-19. Find out how to safely travel, visit restaurants, go to the gym and more during reopening.

If coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) stay-at-home restrictions are easing in your community, you might wonder how to visit public places and protect your health. Here's what you need to know. Before you head out, follow guidance where you live. In the U.S., activity restrictions vary among cities and states.

Before you head out, check your city or state health department's website for information about local restrictions aimed at preventing the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

The best way to protect yourself from the COVID-19 virus is to avoid exposure. If you go out, wear a cloth face covering. Keep a distance of about 6 feet (2 meters) from others if the COVID-19 virus is spreading in your community, especially if you have a higher risk of serious illness. Avoid close contact with anyone who is sick or has symptoms. Also, avoid large events and mass gatherings.

In addition, practice good hygiene. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover your mouth and nose with your elbow or a tissue when you cough or sneeze and then wash your hands or use hand sanitizer. Also, avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.

If you feel sick, stay home. Don't visit public areas unless you're going to get medical care. Avoid taking public transportation if you're sick. If you're at higher risk of serious illness, don't head out into the community just yet. It's safer to stay home. If other members of your household return to work or visit places where social distancing isn't possible, it's recommended that they isolate themselves from you.

Safety tips for public places

Beyond taking general precautions to prevent COVID-19, consider specific safety tips for visiting different public places.

Traveling

Before traveling check the websites of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) for health advisories and self-quarantine requirements. Consider checking the U.S. Transportation Security Administration's website and your airline's website for additional guidance. Consider the risks associated with different types of travel. There might be a risk of getting the COVID-19 virus on a crowded flight if other travelers on board are infected. On a bus or train, sitting or standing within 6 feet (2 meters) of others for a prolonged period can put you at risk of getting or spreading the COVID-19 virus. Traveling by car or recreational vehicle often involves stops that could put you in close contact with infected people.

If you're planning on booking a hotel room, check the hotel's website to learn about precautions being taken and if amenities, such as the gym or restaurant, will be open. Bring cleaning supplies with you. When you get to your room, disinfect all high-touch surfaces, such as light switches, sink faucet handles, door knobs and the remote control. Wash plates, cups or silverware (other than pre-wrapped plastic) before using. Also, confirm the hotel's cancellation policy before making a booking.

Restaurants

Before you eat at a restaurant, check the restaurant's safety practices. Are the employees wearing cloth face coverings, regularly disinfecting high-touch surfaces and practicing social distancing? Is there good ventilation? Are tables set far enough apart from each other to allow for social distancing? Is the menu digital or disposable? Ideally, the restaurant won't offer salad bars, buffets and drink-filling stations that require people to use common utensils or dispensers. If you need to wait in line for service, maintain a distance of at least 6 feet (2 meters) from others. If possible, use touchless payment.

When ordering takeout, try to pay online or over the phone to limit contact with others. If you're having food delivered, ask for it to be left outside your home in a safe spot, such as the porch or your building's lobby. Otherwise, stay at least 6 feet (2 meters) away from the delivery person. If you're picking up your food at the restaurant, maintain social distancing while waiting in the pickup zone. After bringing home your food, wash your hands or use hand sanitizer.

Places of Worship

Before going to a place of worship, check to see if the size of gatherings is being limited and how that might affect your visit. Seek out services held in large, well-ventilated areas. Continue social distancing during services. Also, avoid contact with frequently touched items, such as books. Place any donations in a stationary collection box. If food is offered at an event, look for pre-packaged options.

Gyms

Before going to the gym, call to see if it's limiting how many members are allowed in at the same time. You might have to reserve a block of time in advance, with staff cleaning the facility between blocks. Ask about the facility's cleaning and disinfecting policies and whether you'll be able to use the locker room or bathroom. If you are interested in group exercise classes, ask if they are being offered.

Your gym will likely enforce social distancing by blocking access to every other cardio machine. Follow the gym's guidelines and stay at least 6 feet (2 meters) away from other members. Clean equipment before and after using it. Some equipment that's difficult to clean, such as foam rollers and yoga blocks, might not be available. If you're at higher risk of serious illness, you might consider waiting to return to the gym. Ask if your gym offers virtual classes or training.

Salons

When making your appointment, ask about safety measures. You might be required to attend your appointment alone, wash your hair at home to reduce traffic near the shampoo area, and wait in your car or outside until your appointment begins. In addition, you might ask whether the salon is offering blow drying. Eliminating blow drying could reduce the spread of germs. Ideally, the salon will stagger appointments to limit how many people are in the facility at the same time. You might ask about the salon's disinfecting practices. Is the staff regularly wiping down high-touch surfaces? Are chairs and headrests disinfected after they are used? Is the staff wearing cloth face coverings and regularly washing their hands? Are they wearing single-use gloves for nail and facial work? Also, look for touchless payment options.

Grocery stores

Before going to get your groceries, consider visiting the chain's website to check on the precautions being taken. For smaller businesses, call the store. To make social distancing easy, visit the grocery store early in the morning or late at night, when the store might be less crowded. If you're at higher risk of serious illness, find out if the store has special hours for people in your situation and shop during these times. You might also consider ordering your groceries online for home delivery or curbside pickup.

At the store, disinfect the handle of the shopping cart or basket. Stay at least 6 feet (2 meters) away from others while shopping and in lines. If possible, pay without touching money or a keypad or use hand sanitizer after paying. Also, apply hand sanitizer after you leave the store. When you get home, wash your hands.

Banks

During visits to the bank, use the ATM, if possible. Clean the ATM keyboard with a disinfecting wipe before using it. When you are done, apply hand sanitizer. Wash your hands when you get home.

Gas stations

Before pumping gas wipe down any handles or buttons you'll need to touch. After you finish fueling, apply hand sanitizer. Wash your hands when you get home or the next time you are near a sink.

Pharmacy

Plan to order and pick up all of your prescriptions at the same time. If possible, call in prescription orders ahead of time and use a drive-thru window, curbside pickup, mail order or other delivery service.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you can get a larger supply of medication so that you don't have to visit the pharmacy as often.

Massage therapy

Before having a massage, ask about what precautions your massage therapist is taking to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Ideally, the number of people in the space will be limited to allow for social distancing and you'll be able to check in and out using virtual tools.

Massage rooms, communal areas and any objects you might touch should be thoroughly cleaned, disinfected and sanitized. Ask about the laundry policy for linens, towels and other washable items. Massage therapists should follow hand-washing and hygiene protocols and use equipment to protect themselves, such as gloves and masks.

Parks and outdoor spaces

Before heading out, check with state and local authorities to see if parks, recreational facilities, natural bodies of water, beaches and swim areas are open. In the U.S., the National Park Service will decide on a park-by-park basis if a national park will open. If an area is going to be open, check if bathrooms and food concession stands also are open. Choose a park that is close to home. Travel often involves stops, which can expose you to the COVID-19 virus. Keep space between yourself and others when using swimming pools. While at the park, look for open areas, trails and paths that allow you to keep a distance of 6 feet (2 meters) from others. Avoid crowded areas. As businesses continue to open, guidelines might change. Stay informed. Also, don't be afraid to ask questions. If you don't feel confident about a business's safety practices, postpone your visit. Protecting your health is worth it.

Source: <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/coronavirus/in-depth/coronavirus-safety-tips/art-20485967>

EDUCATION

Frank Byrne - Education Committee Chairperson

Local 891 Member

In partnership with the CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies, Local 891 is proud to announce that we will be hosting two College Credit Courses this Fall at our Union Offices.

Beginning Tuesday, September 1st, from 5:00 PM to 8:20 PM, you can attend a three credit course titled "Language, Literacy and Culture". On Monday evenings beginning August 31st, from 6:15 PM to 9:35 PM you can earn four credits in a course titled "Introduction to Labor Studies".

These courses are planned for traditional in-person classroom attendance. However, if circumstances dictate, we are set up for Distance Learning.

If you have any questions please contact the Local 891 Education & Training Fund education@local891.com




CUNY SCHOOL OF LABOR AND URBAN STUDIES

YOUR COLLEGE JOURNEY STARTS **NOW**

"Introduction to Labor Studies"



Earn 4 credits from the City University of New York!



September - December
Mondays
6:15 PM - 9:35 PM



Credits earned for this certificate are transferable to a Bachelor's degree program in Labor Studies

This course is designed to provide a broad, inter-disciplinary overview of labor studies, covering topics that are fundamental to the study of work, workers, and worker organizations. Students in the course will examine the purposes and structure of unions, the political and economic landscape within which unions must operate, organizing strategies and the nature of employer resistance to unions, alternative forms of worker organization, and the impacts of globalization.

63 Flushing Ave. Unit 358, Building 292, Suite 401; Brooklyn, N.Y. 11205

Students who start with this intro course and want to pursue a certificate have the option to choose from a range of courses to complete that certificate and courses can be taken one semester at a time.



CUNY SCHOOL OF LABOR AND URBAN STUDIES

YOUR COLLEGE JOURNEY STARTS **NOW**

"Language, Literacy, and Culture"



Earns 3 credits from the City University of New York!



September - December
Tuesdays
5 PM - 8:20 PM



Learn the essentials of college-level writing!

The CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies welcomes students who would like to take one class without yet enrolling in a degree program. This course can help you succeed in a degree program should you decide to continue your college journey and earns you credits that can transfer to any CUNY College or program. Apply at: bit.ly/slunondegree

63 Flushing Ave. Building 292, Suite 401; Brooklyn, N.Y. 11205

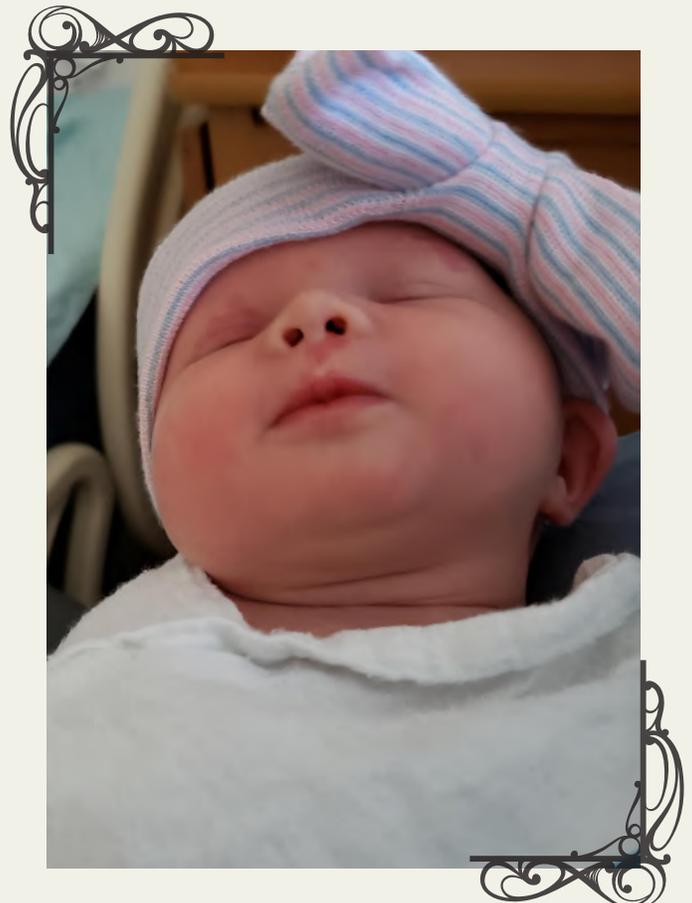
Ask us about using this course as a starting point for a Labor Studies Certificate!

Welcome Members New Little Ones!



Congratulations to grandparents Kevin Gibson, Active Custodian, X095 and his wife Lorraine. Their son Tommy and his wife Kate are the proud parents to daughter, Jameson Jeanne, born on July 10, 2020. Weight 7lbs-15oz.

Congratulations to Active Custodian, Nicholas Anderson, R014 and his wife. They welcomed daughter Amelia Jean on June 27, 2020. Weight 6lbs-12oz. Length 19.5 inches.



THE GAUGE

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
I.U.O.E LOCAL 891
INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS

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