NEXT REGULAR MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Thursday, December 1, 2016
Louis Pasteur Middle School - J.H.S. Q067
51-60 Marathon Parkway, Little Neck, New York 11362

YOU MISS VITAL INFORMATION WHEN YOU DO NOT ATTEND THE MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS
WHY WE ATTEND UNION MEETINGS?

A 2015 survey of Union members in Northern California asks this question. Below, are the top six most common responses given by those members.

1. “I love our union. I love everybody here. I love being part of this. I’ve found something that fits who I am. Coming to meetings is the way to find out what the union is doing, and start contributing.”

2. “I’m a shop steward. I keep up with what’s going on with the union. It’s our future—for our families, for our benefits.”

3. “To stay abreast of what’s going on. To keep wages, benefits and our jobs secure. And to keep us together. We can’t lose what we’ve got—we’ll never get it again.”

4. “To be informed. It’s an obligation for every member to be here.”

5. “So I can hear what’s going on and try to get involved when I can. It’s rough out there. The union is the only avenue that working families have to fight for better wages and benefits and a voice in the workplace.”

6. “Just to be informed and find out what’s going on locally with the union. Also, to get to know the people in the union. I’m trying to be involved and know about our rights as union members.”

Exceptions Committee Chairman, Dan Morgan expressed his observation of the scant auditorium and the importance of members attending the monthly “membership” meetings. He also expressed the importance of retaining all important documents such as bills, cancelled checks and itemized statements for repairs and services from vendors. You will need these items in the event of an annual audit, which you will likely see two more in your CE future.

Tim Faughnan, CEO, of the Northeastern Operating Engineers Federal Credit Union spoke at the November General Membership Meeting. Once again Mr. Faughnan will be available to our members to discuss the products and services of the Northeastern Operating Engineers Federal Credit Union at our December 2016 General Membership meeting.
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

BROOKLYN
The Boro of Brooklyn will be holding their Annual Christmas Party on Wednesday, December 14th, 2016 at Buckley’s Restaurant located on Nostrand Avenue and Avenue S, Brooklyn, New York. Cocktails begin at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are $80.00 per person.
Contact:
Joseph Reilly (718) 253-1412.

RICHMOND
The Boro of Richmond will be holding their Annual Christmas Party on Monday, December 12, 2016 at Canlon’s Restaurant, 1825 North Railroad Avenue, Staten Island, N.Y. 10306. Cocktails begin at 5:00 p.m. Tickets are 75.00 per person. For more information please contact:
Tim Thompson (718) 698-1215.

BRONX/MANHATTAN
The Boros of the Bronx and Manhattan will be holding their Annual Christmas Party together on Thursday, December 8, 2016 at Rory Dolan’s; 890 McLean Avenue, Yonkers, New York. Cocktails begin at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are $75.00 per person.
For more information please contact:
Bronx: Henry Witkowski (718) 231-7453
Manhattan: Michael Reilly (212) 348-3705

QUEENS
The Boro of Queens will be holding their Annual Christmas Party on Thursday, December 15, 2016 at Giardino Restaurant; 44-37 Douglaston Parkway, Douglaston, NY 11363. Tickets are $85.00 per person.
Contact:
Gary J. Viola, Q515 (718)793-4238
or Nicos Kodjapashis Q744 (718)393-7089

EDUCATION  Frank Byrne

Building Operation, Maintenance and Recordkeeping (BOMR)
As of January 1, 2016 anyone renewing their Q01 or Q99 (Refrigeration Certificate of Qualification) must take a mandatory course from the FDNY in Building Operation, Maintenance and Recordkeeping. Local 891 offers this In-Service course. Contact the Education Committee at education@local891.com before it is time to renew your Certificate of Qualification. The FDNY does not necessarily send renewal reminders so be mindful of the expiration date on your Certificate of Qualification.

Certified Pool Operator (CPO)
Local 891 offers In-Service Certified Pool Operator Certification courses. Contact the Education Committee if you are interested in obtaining this Certificate. It is not necessary for your building to have a pool to enroll in the course.
Anyone interested in the 200 hour Refrigeration course starting in September 2017 should contact the Education Committee. We conduct an In-Service course for Local 891 members during the day. An evening course is offered for anyone who is not a member of Local 891.

PENSION  Christopher J. Attianese

The unit value for the month of November 2016 is $88,996
All members participating in the TDA program should now be receiving their renewal letters in the mail. If you would like to make any changes fill out the form, have it notarized and mail it back by December 1st for the changes to take place in January. If there are no changes, no action is required.

At the very least, verify that all information including outstanding loans and beneficiaries on the form is up to date and correct.

Important change regarding your TDA contributions
Effective January 1, 2017, TDA contributions will no longer be deducted from temporary care assignments. Please review your contribution rate and adjust accordingly. You can contact Christopher J. Attianese at Pension@local891.com.
The greatest joy is the gift of giving. We, as a Union, will be giving gifts to school children in Queens. Many of these children are from modest or low income homes. We want to make this our best holiday party ever and a memorable day for the children. Pedro Arroyo and I have the distinction of being Santa this year. We invite you to share in this wonderful event with a gift for a child or a monetary donation that the Union will use to purchase a gift for a child. Your willingness and commitment to share with these children is proof positive that you and your families are the true Santas of the season! Shop for a toy in the price range of $30 to $35. If you cannot personally shop for a gift, you can make a monetary donation. We need to have a gift for each child at the school. It is only a reasonable request that each child receives a gift of equal value. Shop early and submit your gift to your Borough Chairman. Each Borough Chairman will be working with me to make this party a tremendous success.

Your Borough Chairman and District Stewards have the ages and genders. Therefore, we can make sure each child gets a gift.

Once again, we turn to our retirees and strongly encourage them to help us attain this large volume of gifts that we will need for the party. Your participation is needed if we are to be successful in this endeavor. If you wish to send a check for a child’s gift, the check is made payable to Local 891. Kindly mail it to: Peter Maddaloni; Middle School 67, 51-60 Marathon Parkway, Little Neck, New York 11362. If you need additional information, call Peter Maddaloni at (718) 455-9731 ext. 223.

I know we can count on each and every member of Local 891 to open their hearts this holiday season. A school full of children are counting on us. Let’s make their holidays happy ones. Thank you for your generosity and putting a smile on a child’s face with your holiday gift!

“A hundred years from now it will not matter what our bank account was, the sort of house we lived in, or the kind of car we drove, but the world may be different because we were important in the life of a child.”

Submitted By: Peter J. Maddaloni
Children’s Holiday Party Chairman
In last month’s issue of the Gauge, we began a series on the life and times of Samuel Gompers. In this continuation with excerpts taken from Digital History’s Website, we learn about some of Gompers’ early affiliations and victories in organizing.

Gompers repudiated socialism and advocated a pragmatic “pure and simple” unionism that emphasized agreements with employees—which would spell out for a stipulated period the wages, hours of work, and the procedures for handling grievances. Gompers proposed that agreements contain clauses stipulating that employers hire only union members (the closed shop) and that any employee should be required to pay union dues. Employers advocated the open shop, which could employ non-union members.

During the 1880s and 1890s, unions sought to secure and retain a foothold in such major industries as railways, steel, mining, and construction. It was in the building trades where the craft principle was most dominant that the American Federation of Labor developed its largest membership. Miners merged their crafts into the United Mine Workers of America, an industrial union that admitted to membership of those working in and about a mine, whether skilled or unskilled.

In 1892, the AFL’s affiliate in the steel industry, struck in protest against wage cuts. Following the bitter Homestead strike, the steel industry adopted an open shop policy. Craft unions were able to secure collective bargains on railroads, but when some workers formed a union of all rail workers, their effort collapsed in the Pullman boycott of 1894.

But some efforts at unionization proved more successful, including efforts in organizing workers in immigrant sweatshops. The International Ladies’ Garment Workers and the Amalgamated Clothing Workers demonstrated that the new immigrants could be effectively organized.

As trade unionism gained ground before World War I, employers in mines and factories established “company unions,” to handle grievances and provide certain welfare benefits. The most notable company union was in the Rockefeller-owned Colorado Fuel and Iron Company. In 1986, United States Steel, once the world’s largest steel producer, closed down its mills in Homestead, Pa., six miles from Pittsburgh. It was slightly less than a hundred years since the epic clash between labor and management at the plant in 1892 that helped eliminate unions from the steel industry for more than four subsequent decades.

Originally built in 1880 and 1881 by local merchants, the Homestead Works was purchased by industrialist Andrew Carnegie, who installed open-hearth furnaces and electricity in order to boost the plant’s efficiency and reduce the need for skilled labor. Carnegie’s steel mills produced armor for battleships, rails for western railroads, and beams, girders, and steel plates for bridges and skyscrapers.

Carnegie’s drive for efficiency also led to an armed confrontation at Homestead. In contract talks in 1892, Henry Clay Frick, the superintendent of the Carnegie Steel Company, proposed to cut workers’ wages, arguing that increased efficiency had inflated salaries. At the time, unskilled mill workers, who were mainly eastern European immigrants, made less than $1.70 for a 12-hour day. Skilled workers earned between $4 and $7.60 a day. Frick also wanted to eliminate the Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers union from the plant. Stay tuned for more in the January’s issue of the Gauge.
IN MEMORIAM

It is with deep regret we announce the passing of the following Brothers:

ANTHONY J. CAIVANO
RETIRED CE LEVEL 1
Condolences to:
Muriel Caivano
1444 Clearview Street
Forked River, NJ 08731

NUNZIO FRANCHI
RETIRED CE LEVEL 1
Condolences to:
Frank Franchi
266 Hutchinson Blvd
Yonkers, NY 10704

Local 891 November 18th Blood Drive at Melville and Brooklyn Navy Yard
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MESSAGE TO NEW MEMBERS

Steven Williams, Indoctirination Chairman

Welcome to Local 891. As members, we are here for each other. If you have a question or a situation that you need assistance with, please call your assigned mentor, your neighbor Custodian, or the Local 891 office. The back of the Gauge is a wealth of information if you need a specific area of expertise. It is important to contact your union first. Finally, if you haven’t already done so, remember to send in your transfer cards and initiation fees to Kevin Gallagher.

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 Chairman. Please contact your Union immediately upon receiving a Principal’s Rating you wish to grieve.

Please get your unwrapped toy or gift of $30-$35 to your District Steward.

Gifts are for:
Odd number Schools
Kindergarten BOY - 5 years old.
Even number Schools
Kindergarten GIRL - 5 years old.

LOCAL 891
89th Annual Dinner Dance
April 28, 2017
Russo’s on the Bay
Howard Beach, New York

RETIRING

Custodian Engineers are reminded that they should contact their Union prior to retirement. Information regarding benefits and insurance policies are discussed. Answers to your questions at this time may save you a lot of work later during retirement.
PERMITS

Andrew Foti

SCHOOL PLAYGROUNDS

Custodian Engineers having playgrounds slated for community use during after school hours and on weekends are eligible to receive funding for opening, closing, and cleaning daily. Opening is targeted for 8 AM on weekends, holidays and when school is not in session with closing at dusk. Custodian Engineers will be reimbursed two hours daily to open and clean the space, three hours per week (HN) to maintain and two hours daily to close and purchase supplies.

EXTENDED USE FOR SCHOOLS

Paragraph I. (B) the primary use of a schools’ premises must be for DOE programs and activities. After the DOE programs and activities, preference will be given to the use of school premises for community, youth and adult group activities. Paragraph I. (D) events which are personal in nature (e.g. weddings, showers, engagement parties) are strictly forbidden.

Welfare & Annuity Funds
Kevin J. Gallagher, Chairman of Trustees
63 Flushing Ave. • Unit 358 • Brooklyn, NY 11205
Ph: (718) 455-9731 • Ext. 301 • Fx: (718) 488-7122
welfarefund@local891.com

Date Arrived: October 10, 2016
Weight: 4.5lbs
Length: 16”

Proud Parents: Donovan and Toni Dennis (CE 198X)