WELCOME
Happy Holidays

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, January 5, 2017 – 7 p.m.
This meeting will be at P.S. 72 in the Bronx.
The address is: 2951 Dewey Avenue,
Bronx, New York 10465.
PLEASE ATTEND, LET YOUR VOICES BE HEARD.

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.

VARIABLE RATE
The Pension Committee reports that the Variable Unit value for the month of December 2016 is $91.382.
On November 7, 2017 voters in the State of New York will have an opportunity to participate in a referendum on whether to convene a state constitutional convention. A vote on whether to conduct a convention is mandated by the New York State Constitution every twenty years. You might be asking yourself, why am I writing about this now when that date is so far away. I am bringing this to your attention now because, it is vital that every active member and retiree as well as your friends and family understand how important it is that they vote NO on that referendum. There are a number of reasons for voting no, not the least of which is to preserve the pensions and benefits we have worked so hard to earn. The current constitution also ensures the continuation of the civil service system. I will provide more information about the vote throughout the year. When speaking to members about the constitutional convention I am often asked to explain the procedure. The diagram outlines the process:

**LOCAL 891 BLOOD DRIVES**

Local 891 holds a blood drive two times per year. You are encouraged to participate in this important outreach. Members have the choice donating at the union hall at Brooklyn Navy Yard or at the Melville, Long Island blood center. Check your local 891 calendar or contact Evan Manca at bloodbank@local891.com for more information.

The New York Blood Center states that donating blood is easy and the blood supply relies exclusively on the generosity of volunteer blood donors. There is no substitute for human blood. Most people qualify as a volunteer donor, even if they are taking medications. Visit the New York Blood Center’s website at www.nybloodcenter.org for qualifications and restrictions.
New York City Department of Education Emerald Society

Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance

Honoring

Gary O’Neill (M131) and Joanne O’Neill (M042)
Irish Custodians of the Year

Friday, March 10, 2017
at 7:30pm
Terrace on the Park Flushing,
New York
Tickets are $100.00 per ticket

Please see website
emeraldsocietynycdoe.com
for additional information.

Elena Santiago
born on 7/19/2016
to proud parents
Mr. & Mrs Lionel Santiago
Custodian Engineer M130.

SCENES FROM
BROOKLYN’S & QUEENS’
ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY
STUDENTS, PARENTS, AND ADMINISTRATORS ENJOYED THE THRILLS OF THE 19TH ANNUAL CHILDREN’S PARTY AT P.S. 81Q.
HOLIDAY PARTY
Local 891’s President Robert Troeller expressed in his report the importance of the upcoming New York State Constitutional Convention. To better understand what it all means, this Q and A represents a layman’s view of the issue. It is followed by a message from Local 891’s Legislative Committee’s William Carroll and Michael Kelly.

Q: A State Constitutional Convention vote will occur in 2017. What does this mean, and how could it impact me?

A: A constitutional convention vote could impact you, and every other New York state resident, a great deal. The New York State Constitution mandates that every twenty years, voters decide whether to hold a statewide constitutional convention — basically a forum to tweak, change or radically makeover the state constitution.

Since the state constitution safeguards the fundamental rights you enjoy as a New York state citizen, including guaranteed pension benefits, the right to unionize and free public education, fiddling around with it is like opening Pandora’s box. Local 891 is encouraging members to mobilize in 2017 to help voters understand what’s on the line if a constitutional convention takes place. Voters rejected a constitutional convention in 1997 after concerned activists worked together to educate voters about the risks of opening the state constitution.

Delegates will be comprised of 3 from each Senate district and 15 at large for a total of 204.

In April of 2019, the Convention will proceed and propose amendments for popular ratification. Once completed, in November of 2019 New Yorkers will vote on every amendment proposed whether they affect them or not. Put simply, the Constitutional Convention is a risk worth not taking. We need to defeat this issue on November 7, 2017, and not have to move on to the Delegate vote on the 2018 ballot. Will the majority of those Delegates support the labor unions and its causes? The further we move into the Constitutional Convention process, the more we have to lose.

William Carroll and Michael Kelly Reports

On November 7, 2017, New York’s Constitutional Convention will be placed on the ballot as specified in our Constitution. If the vote is no, the Constitutional Convention will be tabled till November 2037. If the Convention receives a yes, then we move on to the November 6, 2018 ballot, where New Yorkers will elect the Delegates. The

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

Any member who made changes to their TDA contribution rate or elections should see the changes in January 2017. Anyone that feels that the rate was not changed or is incorrect, please contact the Pension Committee.

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. Members will be able to increase their TDA contribution percentage on their main assignments during a T.C. assignment for that eight week period. Simply notify the pension committee when a T.C. will start so you can be assisted in adjusting your contribution to the eight week desired rate.

For 2017, the maximum TDA contribution limit is $18,000.

Members 50 years of age and older can contribute $24,000.

Members employed by the Department of Education for at least 15 years and whose average TDA contributions during their employment average less than $5,000 annually, may be eligible for catch up contributions. Catch up contributions can be as much as $3,000 each year (above the $18,000 limit) and are limited to a lifetime total of $15,000. For more information, contact Christopher J. Attianese, Pension Committee Chairman at Pension@local891.com.

LOCAL 891 APPAREL

Express your solidarity by ordering one of several Local 891 logoed items (Jackets, T-Shirt, Hats etc). Contact storekeeper chairman Stevo Pepdjonovic at merchandise@local891.com. You can also see Stevo and Silvia De Green, the above models, with merchandise at the monthly membership meetings.

IN MEMORIAM

CARLO DIONISIO
CE LEVEL I
Condolences to:
Linda Dionisio
50 Nostrand Avenue
Brooklyn NY 10314

Connell Friel
CE LEVEL II
Condolences to:
Bridget Friel
21 Diane Drive
Blauvelt NY 10913

International Union of Operating Engineers
LOCAL 891
89TH ANNUAL DINNER DANCE

Friday, April 28, 2017

Russo’s on the Bay- Howard Beach, New York

Early Bird Tickets for Active and Retired Members only.

Two “Early Bird” Tickets are $160 during the month of January
Two “Early Bird” Tickets are $180 during the month of February

Tickets are $120 each for all members during the months of March and April

Make your checks out to: Local 891 Beneficiaries Fund

Send your check to:
I.U.O.E Local 891
63 Flushing Avenue - Unit 358
Brooklyn, New York 11205

Please make sure to include the names of guests and a contact number

Kieran McKivergan: Entertainment Chairman
THE GAUGE
An Official Publication of
LOCAL 891 IUOE
International Union of Operating Engineers
Brooklyn Navy Yard • 63 Flushing Avenue
Building 292 • Suite 401 (Unit 358)
Brooklyn, NY 11205
Ph: (718) 455-9731 • Fx: (718) 455-9733
wvwww.Local891.com
1-888-891-2226 (Outside NY area only)
To Reach Anyone Listed Below, Dial the Main Union Phone
Number and then the Extension

BUSINESS MANAGER/PRESIDENT
ROBERT J. TROELLER
Vice President
Jeffrey J. Bilek
Recording-Corresponding Secretary
Francis J. Byrne
Financial Secretary
Kevin J. Gallagher
Treasurer
Richard A. Gorgoglione

Boro Chairmen
Brooklyn ..................................................................... 220 .................................................Pedro Arroyo
Manhattan .................................................................. 221 ................................................................. Rocco Marano
Staten Island ........................................................................ 222 ...........................................Kieran McKivergan
Queens ...................................................................... 223 ..........................................................Peter Maddaloni

Committee Chairs
Annual Childrens Party.................................................. 249 ..........................................................Peter Maddaloni
Blood Bank .................................................................. 250 .............................................................Evan Manca
Compensation Insurance ........................................... 251 .........................................................John Maderich
E.P.E. ........................................................................ 252 ............................................................Gregory Sutton
Editor, "The Gauge" ........................................................... 253 ...........................................................Daniel Danvers
Education .................................................................... 314 ....................................................Frank Byrne
Engineers Protective .................................................. 255 ............................................................Frank Felix
Entertainment ................................................................ 256 ..........................................................Kieran McKivergan.
Exceptions...................................................................... 274 ................................................................. Dan Morgan
Good and Welfare .......................................................... 258 ........................................................Sandra Morton
Grievances 328/94 .......................................................... 256 ..........................................................Edward Brier, Jr.
Grievances 891 ............................................................... 260 .........................................................John Maderich
Hospitalization ............................................................. 261 ............................................................Andrew Samberg
Indoctrination ............................................................... 262 ............................................................Steven Williams
Legislative Co-Chairman ................................................ 263 ............................................................William Carroll
Legislative Co-Chairman ................................................ 264 ............................................................Michael Kelly
Membership .................................................................... 264 .............................................................Kevin Gallagher
Membership Assistance ................................................ 265 ............................................................Joanne O'Neill
Occup. Health/Safety .................................................... 266 ............................................................Andrew Foti
Payroll/Permits .............................................................. 267 ............................................................Christopher Attianese
Pension ........................................................................ 268 ..........................................................Robert Calamia
Rating and Transfer .................................................... 269 ............................................................Stevo Pepdjonovic
Store Keeper ....................................................................... 270 .......................................................... Supplies
Temporary Care Assign ................................................ 272 ............................................................Michael Kelly
Watchdog Committee .................................................... 273 ...........................................................Christopher J. Attianese
Web Master ...................................................................... 274 ............................................................Dan Morgan
NYC Central Labor Council Delegate ................................ 275 ............................................................Anthony DelRosso
NYC Central Labor Council Delegate ................................ 276 ............................................................Richard Gorgoglione

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.

LABOR HISTORY

Frank Byrne, local 891’s education chairman would like you to know that there are many opportunities to advance your knowledge of labor history and the many associated subjects. Local 891 works closely with CUNY School of Professional Studies in offering certificates and degree programs in labor subjects. You will be reimbursed for the tuition if you participate in any of the offered programs. Please contact Frank at education@local891.com.

The gauge will continue the history of Samuel Gompers in the February issue.