VERY IMPORTANT MEETING

Thursday, November 2, 2017 at 7 p.m.

General Membership Meeting will be held at
I.S. 167M, 220 East 76th Street, between
2nd and 3rd Avenues, NY 10021

PLEASE ATTEND, LET YOUR VOICES BE HEARD.

PRINCIPAL RATING

Members will be receiving their Fall, 2017 Principal Rating the first week of December. Members are reminded they only have 30 days to grieve a rating and 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 Unit Value for the Month of October 2017 is 103.577.

LOCAL 891 SAYS NO CON-CON

VOTE NO ON NOVEMBER 7, 2017 TO PROTECT YOUR:

- PENSIONS
- BENEFITS
- COLLECTIVE BARGAINING RIGHTS
- CARE AND BENEFITS FOR INJURED
- MUCH MORE INSIDE

COVER MODEL:
Declan Patrick Carroll
Born October 1, 2017
7 lbs. 7 ozs.
Proud parents
William P and Erin Carroll
Think a State Constitutional Convention is the answer?

THINK AGAIN.

If you’re like most New Yorkers, you’re concerned about corruption in government and have witnessed enough ethics scandals to last a lifetime. Some are saying the answer is to hold a Constitutional convention to bypass the legislature and reform government. It may sound like a good idea, but when you look a little closer, a Convention could hurt working people while doing nothing to fix what is broken in state government. Here are the facts.

Myth: Working men and women have nothing to worry about because ethics reform is the real goal.

Fact: Even if that is the objective of proponents, the fact is, once there is a Convention anything can be proposed – even getting rid of the good things in our constitution. Language dealing with workers’ compensation, unemployment insurance, and the right to organize, just to name a few, could be on the chopping block. For public employees in particular, provisions protecting pensions could be eliminated, as could prevailing rate for building and construction trades workers.

Myth: A Constitutional convention will allow everyday New Yorkers to take back their government.

Fact: The same political leaders and party insiders will control the process. Elected officials including state legislators can run to be delegates, and get this, they can even collect double their salary and earn additional pension credits by doing so. In fact, the last time there was a Convention, the Speaker of the Assembly served as President of the Convention. And of the delegates, 67% were lawyers, 25% were legislators or former legislators, 15% had served in the judicial system, and 50% had served in a political party office.

Myth: A Constitutional convention is the only way to achieve the changes New Yorkers want.

Fact: A Convention is only one way to amend the Constitution. The Constitution can be amended, and in fact is amended, regularly without a Convention. If two consecutive, separately-elected legislatures pass an amendment, the proposed change is sent to the voters for ratification. In 2014, three amendments were approved by voters, and in 2013, five amendments were ratified.

A Constitutional convention will cost taxpayers millions of dollars in an effort to achieve reforms that can already occur without creating another layer of government. This money would be better invested in our schools, crumbling infrastructure and on vital public services. Meanwhile, the protections we’ve fought for and won would be in jeopardy.

IT’S TIME TO PUT WORKING PEOPLE FIRST, NOT COME UP WITH YET ANOTHER WAY TO ROLL BACK THE FEW PROTECTIONS WE DO HAVE. IF YOU THINK A CONVENTION IS THE ANSWER, YOU MAY WANT TO THINK AGAIN.
In the event a Custodial worker (Cleaner, Fireman, Handyman, etc) gets injured during working hours, an EFROI (Electronic First Report Of Incident) form should be filled out. Members can find this form on the NYSIF website or by searching NYSIF EFROI in the Google search engine. You can also contact John Maderich for additional information.

At the October 6 union meeting, William Carroll (pictured above), Local 891 Legislative Committee Co-chair, reported on the upcoming NYS Constitutional Convention. This article is an excerpt of his report. Every twenty years New Yorkers get to decide whether to hold a constitutional convention. The last time they agreed to have one, in the 1960s, voters ultimately rejected the convention’s recommended changes. The last time there was a successful convention was in the 1930s. On Election Day, a question listed on the back of the ballot will ask voters if New York State should assemble a convention next year to reopen and possibly amend the state’s constitution. Local 891 is urging members to vote no. Members are being asked to spread the word to family and friends to also vote no.

A recent New York Times article stated that Constitutional Convention would be controlled by well-funded special interests and career politicians who would dominate the process and take advantage of the system to benefit themselves at your expense. Corporations and their lobbyists will use a Convention to weaken workers’ rights and protections. Some of the items on the chopping block could be your pensions, retirement benefits, collective bargaining rights, and prevailing rate in the construction industry.

A key concern of labor unions and their advocates, is that the possible elimination of the state constitution’s guarantee — since the 1938 constitutional convention referendum — that public workers get a lucrative, tax-free pension that can’t be “diminished or impaired” for a worker who is vested. Local government leaders, however, blame some of the nation’s highest property taxes on this pension obligation.

Construction unions also fear the convention could strike down legislation that requires union-level wages and protections in all publicly funded construction sites, which has been a boon for unionized companies in landing big contracts.

There is also the financial boondoggle that could cost taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars and invite corruption by enabling entrenched Albany politicians to make up to $80,000 on top of the taxpayer-funded salaries they already receive. With no timeline to complete their work, there could be no end in sight. Albany politicians, their friends and insiders could continue enriching themselves at the taxpayers’ expense for years.

You can read more about the New York State Constitutional Convention on the Local 891 website. Once again, remember to vote NO.

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**COMPENSATION INSURANCE**

John Maderich

In the event a Custodial worker (Cleaner, Fireman, Handyman, etc) gets injured during working hours, an EFROI (Electronic First Report Of Incident) form should be filled out. Members can find this form on the NYSIF website or by searching NYSIF EFROI in the Google search engine. You can also contact John Maderich for additional information.

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**MEMORANDUM**

MICHAEL B. PAUL RETIRED CE: R044

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**BROOKLYN**

The Borough of Brooklyn will be holding their Annual Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 12, 2017 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.

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**BRONX**

The Borough of the Bronx will be holding its Annual Christmas Party on Thursday, December 8, 2017 at Rory Dolan’s; 890 McLean Avenue, Yonkers, New York. For more information please contact: Pedro Arroyo: (718)455-9731 Ext. 220

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**LOCAL 891 BLOOD BANK**

November 17, 2016

Navy Yard 8:00am to 12:30pm – Melville 7:30am to 1:00pm
Those pushing to rewrite New York’s 240-year-old Constitution say ethical scandals that have tarnished the Legislature could be changed by prompting voters to impose reforms. By law, voters may call for a Constitutional Convention every 20 years, and advocates on both sides are already mobilizing for a November 2017 ballot question that will ask voters whether to have one.

Much is at stake. Proponents say a meeting to frame changes to the state’s charter is a rare opportunity to drive reforms such as imposing term limits on lawmakers; limiting the state’s ability to borrow money without legislative approval; and address the current campaign finance and election practices. Some say this is an opportunity to deal with a government that’s not performing and creates an opportunity for direct democracy. Some also think it’s a way to press the reset button.

NYSPEC (New York State Public Employee Conference) and its members such as Local 891, believe that a convention could evolve into a waste that accomplishes little but sticking taxpayers with a tab of $100 million or more. The convention process in New York has been, for the most part, an expensive, time-consuming production with little results. In the past, conventions have been opposed by public employee unions, and labor groups are already gearing up to convince New Yorkers to vote “NO” on November’s resolution. It would open the door for dark money and billionaire hedge-funders to try to buy changes to the Constitution that would harm working New Yorkers.

Should voters approve a convention next year, delegates would be elected across the state the following year. Finally, in the third year, delegates would meet for four months to draw up changes to the Constitution that would then go before voters for final approval. It is interesting to know that a convention is not necessary to change the Constitution, which has been amended some 200 times. One such change came in 2013, when voters went along with Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s push to drop the prohibition on casino gaming.

As a final (backhanded) consolation, supporters for a convention say it’s “highly unlikely” that delegates will advance “extreme” measures, such as crippling the civil service system that protects state workers’ jobs or altering the state’s increasingly expensive pension obligations. Whatever the delegates put forward will need voter approval. Regardless of voter approval, we cannot rely on “highly unlikely.”

The bottom line is, we should be on the side of sensible reforms that protect our rights, families and benefits. We do not need a Constitutional Convention that can sweep away or reduce our rights and benefits. At the March 28, 2017 PEC meeting, Local 891 legislative committee representatives expressed this concern to the director of the Con-Con initiative, Mr. Gordy Wornock. We are hoping “sensible reform” will become part of the anti-convention campaign.

**LOCAL 891 SUPPORTS REFORM, NOT A CON-CON (CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION) INSPIRED BY MICHAEL KELLY, LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRMAN**

**ENGINEERS PROTECTIVE**

*Frank Felix*

**Stationary Engineer License (High Pressure Boiler Operating Engineer)**

Please be aware that a new form (LIC62: Physical Examination Form) is now required in addition to the usual Supporting Document to renew your Stationary Engineer’s License.

**Supporting Documents to renew your License:**

- Original, typewritten LIC2 License Application
- Recent utility bill (electric, gas, water), bank statement, lease of deed with the Licensee’s name and address if the home address has changed
- Completed, typewritten LIC34 Licensing Supplemental Affidavit (if applicable)
- LIC62: Physical Examination Form, must be completed within 90 days
- One 2x2 current photograph (passport size)
- Updated boiler inspection certificates (if responsible for boilers)
- Notarized affidavit detailing the responsibility of boilers from your employer on company letterhead (if responsible for boilers)
- Copy of confirmation email for online payments
- $45.00 fee payment - check or money order if not making online payment
- $50.00 late renewal - check or money order if not making online payment.
Peter Maddaloni, Local 891 Annual Children’s Party Committee Chairman reports. The greatest joy is the gift of giving. We, as a Union, will be giving gifts to school children in the Bronx. 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. Please give according to your assignment. If you have a merge, please give 2 gifts.

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; Hillcrest High School, 160-05 Highland Avenue, Jamaica, NY 11432. If you need additional information, call Peter Maddaloni at (718) 658-5407, Ext. 1200.

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
Local 891 Membership Committee Chairman, Kevin Gallagher strongly encourages members to attend the monthly general membership meetings. Members miss out on important information and the opportunity to get their questions answered. Members who attend the monthly meetings also get to share ideas and interact directly with other Local 891 members. The article below highlights some important points on union meetings and attendance.

**WHY WE ATTEND UNION MEETINGS?**

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

“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.”

“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.”

“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.”

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

“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.”

“I don’t want to miss this. If I didn’t come, I would miss the camaraderie and the feeling of solidarity.”

“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.”

The Missouri legislature is poised to pass bills to weaken unions and clear the way for corporate dominance in the state. So-called “right-to-work” laws force unions to represent employees who pay nothing toward the costs of collective bargaining. It’s bad enough that these laws allow them to get the benefits of higher wages and better fringe benefits without paying their fair share. What’s worse is that these laws force unions to defend non-dues payers when they need to be defended against unjust discipline or being fired. Arbitration can cost thousands of dollars, including the cost of hiring lawyers.

These bills won’t lead to more manufacturing plants or better jobs or anything good. They lead only to weaker unions, less bargaining power for Missouri workers, and lower wages.

**Wages are 3.1 percent lower in so-called “right to work” (RTW) states, for union and nonunion workers alike**—after correctly accounting for differences in cost of living, demographics, and labor market characteristics. The negative impact of RTW laws translates to $1,558 less a year in earnings for a typical full-time worker.

Washington University in St. Louis professor Jake Rosenfeld finds that the dramatic decline in union density since 1979 has resulted in far lower wages for nonunion workers, an impact larger than the 5 percent effect of globalization on their wages. Specifically, nonunion men lacking a college degree would have earned 8 percent or $3,016 annually, more in 2013 if unions had remained as strong as they were in 1979.

Between 1979 and 2013, the share of private sector workers in a union has fallen from about 34 percent to 11 percent among men, and from 16 percent to 6 percent among women. The authors note that unions keep wages high for nonunion workers for several reasons: union agreements set wage standards and a strong union presence prompts managers to keep wages high in order to prevent workers from organizing or their employees from leaving. Moreover, unions set industry-wide norms, influencing the moral economy.

**Rosenfeld’s report** shows that working class men have felt the decline in unionization the hardest; their paychecks are noticeably smaller than if unions had remained as strong as they were almost 40 years ago. Rebuilding collective bargaining is one of the tools we have to reinvigorate wage growth, for low and middle-wage workers.

That’s why the so-called “right-to-work” efforts make no sense. We need workers to have more bargaining power, to negotiate for higher wages. The RTW laws are designed by the business lobby to benefit corporate titans.

One wonders why state legislators go along with them when they hurt the vast majority of their constituents.
HOSPITALIZATION
THE PICA PROGRAM — FYI (PART 1)
Part 2 will continue in December’s Gauge
Andrew Samberg

PICA is a prescription drug benefit program, administered by Express Scripts, Inc., that is provided to you and your eligible dependents. It is made available through the joint efforts of the City of New York Office of Labor Relations and the Municipal Labor Committee.

All employees, non-Medicare retirees, and their non-Medicare dependents enrolled in a health plan offered by the City’s Health Benefits Program receive coverage for certain categories of prescription drugs.

What drugs are covered?
PICA covers medications in two specific drug categories:

Self-Injectable Medications
1. Most injectable medications not requiring administration by a health care professional
2. Medications used to treat cancer
3. Medications used to treat certain side effects of chemotherapy.

Copayments
What are the co-payments for PICA drugs?
Retail (Up to a 30-day supply at a retail pharmacy):
$10 Generic
$25 Preferred Brand (Formulary)
$45 Non-Preferred Brand (Non-Formulary)
Express Scripts (ESI) Home Delivery Pharmacy (Up to a 90-day supply at ESI Home Delivery Pharmacy for non-specialty medications):
$20 Generic
$50 Preferred Brand (Formulary)
$90 Non-Preferred Brand (Non-Formulary)

Specialty Medications (Up to a 30-day supply at Accredo Specialty Pharmacy or Freedom Fertility Pharmacy):
$10 Generic
$25 Preferred (Formulary)
$45 Non-preferred (Non-Formulary)

For brand medications that have FDA approved generic equivalents, PICA will pay for the generic medication only. If the brand is dispensed, the member must pay the difference in cost between the generic and brand drug plus the applicable brand copay.

There is an annual deductible of $100 per person. This deductible is independent of any other deductible and must be satisfied before copayments are applied to find out if your medication is Preferred or Non-preferred, you may call Express Scripts Customer Service at (800) 467-2006 or visit www.Express-Scripts.com.

Mandatory Mail Order
Specialty Maintenance Medications
Up to a 30 day supply of specialty medication is available through Accredo Specialty Pharmacy. Accredo, an Express Scripts specialty pharmacy, provides individualized care and convenient delivery of specialty medications. All specialty medications such as self-injectables or cancer medications must be obtained through Accredo Specialty Pharmacy. Specialty “stat” drugs are the exception. Medication such as Lovenox which is a blood thinner that is needed immediately after surgery would be allowed to be obtained through your retail pharmacy. A member may obtain up to 2 fills of a specialty “stat” medication at the retail pharmacy per year.

To order/refill specialty medications or determine if your medication qualifies as a specialty “stat drug”, please call Accredo Specialty Pharmacy at 877-895-9697.

Non-Specialty Maintenance Medications
Up to a 90 day supply of non-specialty maintenance medication is available through ESI Home Delivery Pharmacy. A member may receive up to a 3 month supply for 2 retail copayments.

Non-specialty maintenance medications must be sent to ESI Home Delivery Pharmacy. A maintenance drug is a medication that you will be utilizing on a regular basis over an extended period of time. Please note that if your physician changes the strength of your maintenance medication or prescribes a different maintenance medication, you may go to a retail pharmacy for up to two 30 day fills and then you must transfer to ESI Home Delivery Pharmacy. Medications a member may take for an extended period of time such as those to treat nausea while undergoing cancer treatment would be considered non-specialty maintenance medications.

You may mail your prescription to:
Express Scripts Home Delivery Service
P.O. Box 66568
St. Louis, MO 63166-6568

You may also call Express Scripts’ Customer Service at 800-467-2006.

By Phone:
The Interactive Voice Response (IVR) System enables you to renew prescriptions over the telephone at any time of the day or night. Simply call 800-467-2006 and follow the instructions that are given to you over the phone.

Over the Internet:
Log onto Express Scripts’ website at www.express-scripts.com and register as a member. Once you have registered you can order refills through the web and verify your copay.

Fertility Medications
The fertility medication benefit program is available exclusively from Freedom Fertility Pharmacy. Injectable medication used to treat infertility is only available to PICA members whose health plan covers the treatment that require this medication.

This medication is limited to a lifetime maximum of three (3) cycles of therapy. Administration of the medication(s) is usually given daily for 7-10 days early in the cycle. Even though fertility medication(s) is physically administered for about 7-10 days, clinically, it is used as a treatment for 1 FULL cycle.

The Freedom Advantage®, offered to PICA members features a dedicated team of fertility only care coordinators, free shipping, free patient education materials and emergency same-day services. For questions, call Freedom Fertility Pharmacy at (800) 660-4283 or visit www.freedomfertility.com.
**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 • Fax: (718) 455-9733  
www.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**  
**Vice President**  
**Recording-Corresponding Secretary**  
**Financial Secretary**  
**Treasurer**  

**BORO CHAIRMEN**

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**WELFARE & ANNUITY FUNDS**

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**PAYROLL AND PERMITS**

Andrew Foti

**RECORD GALAXAY PAYMENTS**

Keep detailed records of your permits and space sheets in the event your Galaxy DAR reflects a deficit based on payments due but were not received.

- Print and keep copies of permits and space sheets
- Submit all space sheets as usual
- Keep track of dates/pay periods
- Document payment/non-payment amount discrepancies
- Document 113/113E/202S discrepancies

**SUPPLIES**

Please be aware there is no vendor for moving. In order to get your belongings transferred from one school to another, please follow the procedure below. The NYCSSS crews will provide assistance for your move.

- Submit a work request (PO18)
- Use code 44 (Truckers/Laborers)
- Enter all items to be moved in description box

If you have equipment out for repairs, instruct vendors to delay delivery until you are certain of your transfer and have delivery made to new assignment.

**PURCHASING CUT OFF**

2017 supply program cut off dates (last day to spend supply money) are December 1, for non-list items (quotes) and December 15, for catalog items. There is no rollover of these funds to 2018. As a reminder, you may transfer equipment funds to supply allocation without DDF approval, as long as you leave at least one dollar ($1) inside that bucket. However, DDF approval is required when transferring funds from supply to equipment.