REGULAR MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Thursday May 3, 2018 at 7 p.m.
M167; 220 East 76th Street, between 2nd and 3rd Avenues, NY 10021
PLEASE ATTEND, LET YOUR VOICES BE HEARD.

VARIABLE RATE
March Unit Value: $108.593

CORRECTION
On the cover of the March 2018 Gauge, Robert Souto’s phone number was listed incorrectly. The correct phone number is (631) 428-1475.

WELCOME LOCAL 891’S NEWEST MEMBERS
PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Local 891 Member,

Due to the colossal failure of the Division of School Facilities (DSF) and the City of New York to properly plan and manage the system-wide custodial budget, many Local 891 members have had previously promised and much needed resources taken from their schools. Unfortunately, a great deal of work previously included in our Annual Plans will not get done. Obviously, they are not as concerned with the conditions of the schools as we are. We understand your morale is low due to your employer treating you like s**t!

Now, certain Deputy Directors of Facilities (DDFs) are putting pressure on Custodian Engineers to make other unrelated and ridiculous changes. Every member is responsible for operating their assignment within the resources provided. If your assignment is in deficit due to overstaffing, you must take the proper steps to reduce the number of employee-hours paid. If you need to cut anyone’s hours or lay off an employee, you must follow the proper protocol outlined in the previously issued guidelines and cut the least senior employees first.

If you are not in deficit, ignore the suggestions of those DDFs and follow the recent Circular. Our contract requires us to follow Official Circulars, even if they are the subject of a grievance. You are required to adhere to your Annual Building Plan. As previously stated, if necessary, make changes to this year’s Annual Plan. Otherwise, schedule your staff as necessary to complete your plan. Any work you deem necessary to accomplish your annual plan agreed to by you and your Principal is essential work.

Please be reminded that our contract requires us to notify DSF in writing if we work any second job. Our CBA Article III-Section 22, states in part, “Custodian Engineers must notify the Deputy Director, Department of Plant Operations, of any outside employment, including employment by another Custodian Engineer,” and “Custodian Engineers shall notify the Division of School Buildings upon their employment by a Custodian Engineer in another school.” These requirements have existed unchanged for over twenty years. You are NOT RESPONSIBLE for knowing whether any members of your staff have outside employment, other than with NYCSSS in another school.

Regards,
Robert

891 GRIEVANCES
John Maderich

I encourage every Custodian Engineer to sit down and speak to their Principal(s) and explain the cuts in the recent Circular No 2-2017/18 in details. Explain how it may affect the day to day operation of the building and projects that you may have planned to accomplish. Explain that these cuts were directed to us by the DSF and not because of what you did as a Custodian Engineer.

LOCAL 891 BLOOD DRIVES
Evan Manca

MAY 25, 2018 Local 891 holds a blood drive two times per year. The date for the next drive is May 25, 2018. You are encouraged to participate in this important outreach. Members have the choice of donating in 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.

SUPPLIES Michael Kelly

RULES AND REGULATIONS SECTION IV; PG. 19 4.1.1 Tools and Materials. Tools and materials will be provided by the BOE. It will be the Custodian Engineers’ responsibility to requisition same in ample quantity and proper type, and to maintain such property in an approved manner. Nothing in Circular #2 – 2017/2018 changes who’s responsible for providing, or for the requisitioning of supplies. The department can claw back any amount of supply allocation they choose but at the end of the day the responsibility to provide is theirs alone. Our responsibility is to manage their allocations prudently and notify them when additional requisitions are necessary. This request can only be made after you have exhausted your present allocation, and only for items which will be depleted before the next allocation drop. The request should contain the amount of supplies on hand, the date you will be running out by, about a month to go, supplies needed to the next allocation drop and the total dollar amount. Request should be sent to Sal Calderone, Director of Facilities and DDF.
The Bi-weekly Bronx luncheon meeting on Wednesday February 28th, 2018 was held at the Hibachi Grille and Supreme Buffet and was the last meeting for Mr. Pedro Arroyo in the role of Bronx Borough Chairman.

The location is fitting for the occasion, just steps from Yankee stadium where many legends have performed over the years.

Pedro handed over the reign to his successor and incoming Chairman Mr. Mike King and was overwhelmed with an attendance of over 80 of his peers. Also, in attendance were two former Bronx Borough Chairmen, the legendary Richard Duffy and Jimmy Rafferty.

It shows the great bond is still alive and kicking in the Bronx with such a great turnout for a great guy. We all wish Pedro a long, healthy, happy and prosperous retirement.

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**ISMAEL ALGARIN**
**RETIRED CE LEVEL II, K145**
Condolences to:
Ilma Algarin
3716 West Black Hawk Drive
Glendale, AZ 85308

**MICHAEL G. SCHNEIDER**
**RETIRED CE, Q063**
Condolences to:
Christine Znack
91-42 109th Street
Richmond Hill, NY 11418

**FRANCIS C. O’DONNELL**
**RETIRED CE LEVEL II, K515**
Bronx – Manhattan Supervisor
Condolences:
Lillie Mae O’Donnell
7302 Warrens Way
Wanague, NJ 07645

**JOHN FABBRICANTE**
**RETIRED CE, K525**
Condolences to:
John Fabbricante, Jr
153 Beach 129th Street
Rockaway Park, NY 11694

**JEREMIAH MURPHY**
**RETIRED CE LEVEL II, M013**
Condolences to:
Rosaleen Murphy
60 Moison Road North
Blauvelt, NY 10913
LOCAL 891 CONTINUES TO ADD NEW MEMBERS. ON MARCH 13TH, 2018, THE NEWEST MEMBERS ATTENDED AN INDOCTRINATION WHERE LOCAL 891’S COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN ADDRESSED NEW MEMBERS.

New members in Classroom

Francis Byrne; Recording-Corresponding Secretary and Education Committee Chairman

Stephen Williams; Indoctrination Committee Chairman

Michael Kelly; Legislative Committee Co-Chairman and Supply Committee Chairman

Christopher Attianese; Pension Committee Chairman

Kevin Gallagher; Financial Secretary and Membership Committee Chairman

Gregory Sutton; E.P.E.C. Committee Chairman & GALAXY.

William Carroll; Legislative Committee Co-Chairman

Rachel Moran; Assistant Office Manager Organizing Indoctrination supplies
President /Business Manager, Robert J. Troeller, addresses the members at the April union meeting. Mr. Troeller emphasized his disgust with DSF’s current hijacking of our operating budget. Highlighted in his address, was the importance of sticking together in the current union organizing climate. Mr. Troeller touched upon the current “Janus vs AFSCME supreme court case and the negative implications a pro-Janus decision could have on workers’ rights, as in recent situations in Wisconsin, Chicago and Buffalo, NY. Mr. Troeller went on to “gladly welcome the newest members to Local 891.”

On March 9, 2018, the Emerald Society of the New York City Department of Education honored Custodian Engineer and Local 891’s 32BJ/94 Grievance Committee Chairman, Edward Brier, Jr and Megan Reid, daughter of Q570 Custodian Engineer, Robert Reid. Edward Brier Jr was honored as Irish custodian of the year. Megan Reid received an academic scholarship for college.
On March 25, 2018, the 107th Anniversary of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire in New York’s Greenwich Village was recognized. This tragedy took the lives of 146 young immigrant garment workers and galvanized a reform movement to raise standards for workers.

Many unions and their members gather to remember the victims with a reading of their names and testimony from one of the survivors. The ceremony was accompanied by speeches from elected officials and live entertainment.

This incident has had great significance to this day because it highlights the inhumane working conditions to which industrial workers can be subjected. To many, its horrors epitomize the extremes of industrialism.

The tragedy still dwells in the collective memory of the nation and of the international labor movement. The victims of the tragedy are still celebrated as martyrs at the hands of industrial greed.

The fire at the Triangle ShirtWaist Company in New York City is one of the worst disasters since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution. The Asch Building was one of the new “fire-proof” buildings, but the blaze on March 25th was not their first. It was also not the only unsafe building in the city.

On the corner of Greene Street and Washington Place, fire fighters struggled to save workers and control the blaze. The tallest fire truck ladders only reached to the sixth floor, 30 feet below those standing on window ledges waiting for rescue. Many men and women jumped from the windows to their deaths.
The International Union of Operating Engineers is leading the fight to combat a possible anti-union decision in the Janus vs AFSCME case (see article below). In a recent trip to the IUOE’s new training center in Crosby, Texas, Local 891’s Business Manager/President Robert J. Troeller and members of the legislative committee, attended a “Fight Back” conference. Discussed at the conference were ideas and possible solutions for unions that will be affected by a pro-Janus ruling. Some suggested solutions were:

- Legal actions (appeal, itemized class actions)
- Organizing with new media actions
- Getting retired members involved

The Supreme Court recently heard arguments in a case that public sector unions fear could deal a heavy blow by potentially reducing their financial coffers and opening the door for declines in membership. The case currently before the Supreme Court comes from Mark Janus, a child support specialist for the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services. Janus is not a member of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees local chapter (the union working with many public sector workers in the state). But, in Illinois and some 21 other states, workers are required to pay “fair-share” fees, even if they decline to join the union, because they still benefit from the union’s bargaining activities. Nonmember workers are not required to contribute to a union’s political lobbying activities or backing of political candidates. Janus, however, argues that because public sector unions enter into bargaining agreements with the government, all of their activity should be seen as political. Specifically, Janus has been frustrated that the union has pushed for increased benefits at a time when Illinois is facing a budget crisis fueled by mismanagement of the state’s pension program. And, because he disagrees with that political activity, he wants to be able to opt out of paying any fees to the union. Anything less, Janus and his lawyers argue, is an infringement on his First Amendment rights. The case hinges on a 40-year-old precedent allowing public sector unions to charge non-members who benefit from collective bargaining. The outcome could affect the operations of public unions, which represent state and government employees and function as one of the strongest parts of the union movement.

In a similar case, Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association, went before the Court in 2016 but resulted in a 4-4 split decision following the death of Justice Antonin Scalia. But with a full court, including Trump appointee Neil Gorsuch, a conservative majority is expected to overturn the precedent upheld by Abood v. Detroit Board of Education in 1977, effectively turning the public sector into a “right to work” zone.

Like many cases that reach the Supreme Court level, Janus has become very political, with a number of conservative groups, like the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation, lining up in support of Janus while liberal organizations rally behind the unions. The case could also have an electoral impact, given the financial and personnel power unions often bring to political campaigns, with Democrats usually receiving the larger share of those benefits.

That outcome could also further weaken the power of public unions by creating new challenges in organizing strategy, political activity, and bargaining for workers.

Reports stated that those challenges could be particularly significant for people of color, who have benefited greatly from membership in public sector unions. Union leadership and labor experts note that unions have played a historical role in the integration of the workforce and in providing opportunities to African Americans in the Jim Crow South. But they argue that unions continue to play a significant role in making wages and labor benefits more equal across racial and gender lines.
THE GAUGE
An Official Publication of
LOCAL 891 IUOE
International Union of Operating Engineers
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Building 292 • Suite 401 (Unit 358)
Brooklyn, NY 11205
Ph: (718) 455-9731 • Fx: (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

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<th>BUSINESS MANAGER/PRESIDENT</th>
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Boro Chairmen

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PENSION
Christopher Attianese

Local 891 Member,

I will be making available the 2018 TDA Temporary Rate Change sign-up forms to be used for the Lump Sum Payment in July.

At this time, you can sign up by request following one of these steps:

1.) Please contact me at pension@local891.com or (718)455-9731, Ext. 268 for a copy of the form. I can email it to you. When emailed, print both sides of the form only if there is an address change, otherwise, print page 1 only.

2.) Forms will be available at the May 3rd union meeting.

All sign-up forms must be returned to me by June 1st, 2018. They can hand delivered to me at the meeting, scanned and emailed to me or mailed directly to me at the union hall (see back of Gauge for address).

The starting and ending payroll dates should both be 07/12/2018 for Lump Sum purposes. This form will be made available online in the near future and will also be used for increasing your TDA rate on your primary assignment during a Temporary Care. When submitting this form for a Temporary Care, the dates should reflect the first and last check dates.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Please do NOT submit a TDA rate change between now and the lump sum payment to avoid issues with the actual Lump Sum change. If you have submitted a rate change recently, please make a note of it on the form.

INDOCTRINATION
Steven Williams

MESSAGE TO NEW MEMBERS

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 fees to Kevin Gallagher.