

THE GAUGE



I.U.O.E LOCAL 891
AFL-CIO

APRIL 2020



DESIGNED BY: TAYVIA DELPECHE

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

VARIABLE RATE

Unit Value for March, 2020
\$107.847

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.

RENEWALS

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

REGULAR MEMBERSHIP MEETING IN MANHATTAN

The April 2, 2020 General Membership Meeting is Cancelled

LOCAL 891 ANNUAL PICNIC SAVE THE DATE!

THE FUTURE IS NOW



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Local 891 Member,

In these times, I urge you to follow the issued coronavirus guidelines to protect you and your families. Being essential city employees, we must be extra cautious as we cannot work from home as mandated by the state.

Thank you all for attending and participating at Local 891's monthly General Membership on Thursday, March 5, 2020 at Robert Wagner School – JHS 167, 220 East 76th Street (bet. 2nd and 3rd Avenues).

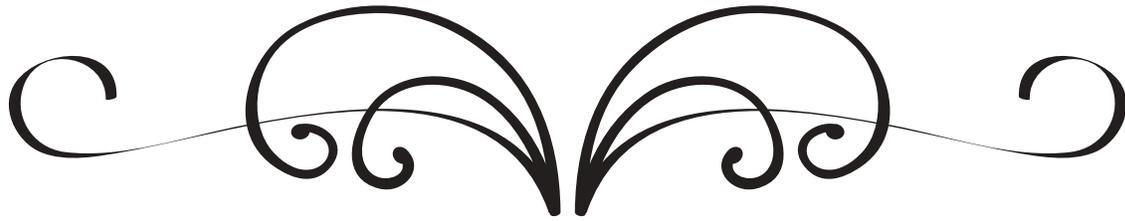
At the meeting, the following proposals were voted on and were approved by 84% of the membership in attendance who chose to vote. The amendments will be sent to our International for their required approval. Once we receive that notice, we will incorporate the changes and send you a revised document.

- **Proposal 1) Remove Electronic Voting from Article IV Section 1. (Required by IUOE Constitution).**
- **Proposal 2) Replace the words Chairman and Chairmen with Chairperson and Chairpersons throughout the By Laws. No change to anyone's duties.**
- **Proposal 3) Replace the term MPR with salary in Article VII 3-B and 3-C, to reflect our most recent CBA. No other changes to the salary structure.**
- **Proposal 4) The inappropriately titled "Grievance Committee 891-94/74" shall be renamed the Custodial Helper Committee in Article V Section 3. The structure will remain the same.**

In attendance at the meeting were staff members from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to educate and answer questions regarding the coronavirus (see pictures on page 10).

There has been much more information and guidelines issued regarding the coronavirus since the March meeting. Please see additional information that I have emailed via constant contact to the membership: information regarding time keeping guidelines; Emblem Health's fact sheet; cancellations and postponements; 70 years and older employee and more.

Robert



**I N
M E M O R I A M**

**MARVIN MIRSKY
RETIRED CE, K253**

**CONDOLENCES TO SCOTT MIRSKY
62 POPLAR AVENUE
STATEN ISLAND, NY 10309**

**ARTHUR G. HIBBERT
RETIRED CE, X400**

**CONDOLENCES TO JAMES HIBBERT
(SON)
1646 CASTLE LAWN COURT
NAPERVILLE, IL 60565**

**ARTHUR E. WARD JR.
RETIRED CE, M465**

**CONDOLENCES TO JENNIFER LAWING
(DAUGHTER)
1739 REYNOLDS STREET
CROFTON, MD 21114**

**DOMINICK J. D'ANDREA
RETIRED CE, K465**

**CONDOLENCES TO CAROLYN AMBERY
(DAUGHTER)
73-03 BELL BLVD, APT. 3K
BAYSIDE, NY 11364**



BLOOD BANK

Evan Manca - Blood Bank Chairperson

COVID-19 and Blood Donation

The New York Blood Center Enterprises (NYBCe) is closely monitoring the outbreak of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and continues to carry out our lifesaving mission in our communities.

To ensure we are prepared to support health agencies in our communities and across the country, NYBCe strongly urges individuals who feel healthy and well to make an appointment at a donor center or blood drive to give blood, platelets and plasma.

Safety Protocols

NYBCe is committed to the safety of our donors, volunteers, employees and blood recipients, and to transparency with the American public during this evolving public health emergency. There is no data or evidence that this coronavirus can be transmitted by blood transfusion. In fact, there have been no reported cases of transfusion-transmission for any respiratory virus, including this coronavirus.

It is safe to donate blood, and we encourage healthy individuals to donate so that blood is available for those patients who need. Our blood collection sites are disinfected frequently, and we are taking extra precautions to help prevent the person-to-person spread of COVID-19 as per CDC recommendations. Our staff are also practicing health self-assessments prior to presenting at work.

NYBCe only collects blood from individuals who are healthy and feeling well at the time of donation – and who meet other eligibility requirements. To protect our staff and donors, NYBCe is asking donors to self-screen before coming in to donate.

Please do not present to donate if you have:

A fever or other symptoms of COVID-19 (cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing)
had close contact with someone diagnosed with or suspected of having COVID-19 in the last 14 days
been diagnosed with or suspected of having COVID-19 until 28 days after your illness has resolved.

If you are unsure whether to donate, or if you have donated recently and you develop symptoms of COVID-19 or you test positive for COVID-19, please contact us at 1.800.688.0900. Please be aware that we do NOT test for COVID-19. You should contact your health care provider if you want to be tested.

If you are feeling healthy and well and meet general eligibility guidelines, please schedule your donation now to help ensure a stable blood supply amid coronavirus concerns.

MEMBERSHIP ASSISTANCE

Vincent McParland - Membership Assistance Chairperson

There is so much information becoming available to us all. I have compiled a list of websites for those who wish to research. If there is a specific question please contact me directly for information and /or help. 718-455-9731 ext 266.

My direct office number is 212-941-4812.

For those who feel they need to speak with someone other than Local 891 or myself.

NYS COVID Mental Health Hotline: 1-844-863-9314

<https://nycosh.org/covid19/>

The Sister organizers from Western New York have a very informative site

<https://wnycosh>

These sites are also informative and worth looking into;

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/therapeutic-options.html>

<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/>

Also the National Institute of Environmental Health Science (NIESH) is developing an essential worker training module. I will keep you updated on its progress.

Answers to Your Frequently Asked Questions

How does coronavirus spread?

It seems to spread very easily from person to person, especially in homes, hospitals and other confined spaces. The pathogen can be carried on tiny respiratory droplets that fall as they are coughed or sneezed out. It may also be transmitted when we touch a contaminated surface and then touch our face.

Is there a vaccine yet?

No. The first testing in humans of an experimental vaccine began in mid-March. Such rapid development of a potential vaccine is unprecedented, but even if it is proved safe and effective, it probably will not be available for 12 to 18 months.

What makes this outbreak so different?

Unlike the flu, there is no known treatment or vaccine, and little is known about this particular virus so far. It seems to be more lethal than the flu, but the numbers are still uncertain. And it hits the elderly and those with underlying conditions – not just those with respiratory diseases – particularly hard.

What should I do if I feel sick?

If you've been exposed to the coronavirus or think you have, and have a fever or symptoms like a cough or difficulty breathing, call a doctor. They should give you advice on whether you should be tested, how to get tested, and how to seek medical treatment without potentially infecting or exposing others.

How do I get tested?

If you're sick and you think you've been exposed to the new coronavirus, the C.D.C. recommends that you call your healthcare provider and explain your symptoms and fears. They will decide if you need to be tested. Keep in mind that there's a chance – because of a lack of testing kits or because you're asymptomatic, for instance – you won't be able to get tested.

What if somebody in my family gets sick?

If the family member doesn't need hospitalization and can be cared for at home, you should help him or her with basic needs and monitor the symptoms, while also keeping as much distance as possible, according to guidelines issued by the C.D.C. If there's space, the sick family member should stay in a separate room and use a separate bathroom. If masks are available, both the sick person and the caregiver should wear them when the caregiver enters the room. Make sure not to share any dishes or other household items and to regularly clean surfaces like counters, doorknobs, toilets and tables. Don't forget to wash your hands frequently.

Should I wear a mask?

Experts are divided on how much protection a regular surgical mask, or even a scarf, can provide for people who aren't yet sick. The W.H.O. and C.D.C. say that unless you're already sick, or caring for someone who is, wearing a face mask isn't necessary. And stockpiling high-grade N95 masks will make it harder for nurses and other workers to access the resources they need. But researchers are also finding that there are more cases of asymptomatic transmission than were known early on in the pandemic. And a few experts say that masks could offer some protection in crowded places where it is not possible to stay 6 feet away from other people. Masks don't replace hand-washing and social distancing.

Should I stock up on groceries?

Plan two weeks of meals if possible. But people should not hoard food or supplies. Despite the empty shelves, the supply chain remains strong and remember to wipe the handle of the grocery cart with a disinfecting wipe and wash your hands as soon as you get home.

Can I go to the park?

Yes, but make sure you keep six feet of distance between you and people who don't live in your home. Even if you just hang out in a park, rather than go for a jog or a walk, getting some fresh air, and hopefully sunshine, is a good idea.

On the CDC site there is a self checker which is a guide to help you make decisions and see about appropriate care. Please if you have concerns call your Union.

Click here for the CDC website - <https://www.cdc.gov/>

Christopher Attianese - Pension Chairperson

An Update regarding BERS Operations

Dear Member:

Today we have made the difficult decision to stop accepting incoming mail into BERS. At BERS we have always taken our responsibility to protect the well-being of our membership seriously, and we recognize that we are in an important position to support the collective fight against the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). During this time, we remain committed to our membership, and will do the following to ease any inconvenience this will cause:

- All applications, forms, and correspondence can continue to be emailed to BRespon@bers.nyc.gov or members_outreach@bers.nyc.gov.
- All applications, forms, and correspondence can continue to be faxed to [718-935-4124](tel:718-935-4124) or [718-935-3830](tel:718-935-3830).
- All forms on our website, <https://www.nycbers.org>, have been updated to a fillable format.
- We will temporarily waive notarization of applications. In the absence of notarization, additional security measures will be adopted. This may involve a BERS staff member calling you to confirm certain information. If requesting a payment (for example, a refund or loan), please be advised that the most efficient and secure way to accomplish this will be to direct the payment by electronic funds transfer (EFT) to the same account where your pay or your pension is deposited.
- Checks payable to BERS should be sent to the following address:
Board of Education Retirement System
P.O. Box 20562
Brooklyn, NY 11201-0562

While this remains a challenging time for us all, we will continue to support our membership and communicate any changes in our operations as soon as possible. Please continue to visit our website for the latest

CUSTODIAL HELPER COMMITTEE

Marvin Rodriguez - Committee Chairperson

Theresa DiCristi - Committee Member

The one hundred twenty (120) day rule for new hires is still in effect. When you have a new hire, be sure to request from NYCSSS the new hire's start date. The employee may be new to your school but he/she may have worked at another site prior to being hired by you. If you have a new hire who is not performing well and you wish to have that person removed, you must document him/her by using the DAF (Disciplinary Action Form) forms and request termination.

- 1). If an employee needs a replacement ID card, they should contact Thomas Smith at thomas.smith@nycsss.org. The employee will have to present identification and the reason for needing a new ID.**
- 2). Please make sure when filling out the DAF (Disciplinary Action Form) that you fill out both sheets. The sheets need to be signed or witnessed. Failure to do so will result in the sheets not being processed.**

When emailing NYCSSS, make sure to forward a copy to your borough chairperson and Theresa DiChristi or myself at grievances32-94@local891.com

EDUCATION

Frank Byrne - Education Committee Chairperson

Local 891 has postponed all classes until further notice. Please contact me if you have any questions at education@local891.com.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH/SAFETY

Joanne O'Neill - Occup. Health/Safety Chairperson

ASBESTOS SCREENINGS WILL BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

COMPENSATION INSURANCE

Trifon Radef - Compensation Insurance Chairperson

Custodian Engineers, please submit a Statement of Account with your record request from the Office of Auditor General. A two-year Statement of Account was mailed to all Custodian Engineers by New York State Insurance Fund in April 2017, covering October 2014 to April 2017.

If any Custodian Engineer needs a copy of their Statement of Account, please call me at (718) 455-9731 ext. 251. I will request a copy from New York State Insurance Fund. If you do not submit a Statement of Account with your document request, you will get a disallowance from the Office of the Auditor General for all payments made to the New York State Insurance Fund.

CONGRATULATIONS MICHAEL KING ON BEING SELECTED AS THE 2020 NYC DOE EMERALD SOCIETY IRISH CUSTODIAN ENGINEER OF THE YEAR



THE NEW DATE FOR THIS EVENT WILL BE SEPTEMBER 18, 2020.



EAT, DRINK AND HAVE FUN!

LOCAL 891 ANNUAL PICNIC

SAVE THE DATE

JUNE 20, 2020

Thank you for attending the March 5, 2020 Union Meeting at M167 in Manhattan. YOU MISS A LOT WHEN YOU MISS YOUR UNION MEETING. Members of the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene were invited to brief 891 members on the coronavirus. There were many questions for the guests. The vote to amend the union's by-laws was also held.



THE FUTURE IS NOW

THE GAUGE

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

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Brooklyn, NY 11205

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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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Business Manager/ President

Francis J. Byrne
Recording-Corresponding
Secretary

Jeffrey J. Bilek
Vice President

Richard A. Gorgoglione
Treasurer

Kieran M. McKivergan
Financial Secretary



WELFARE & ANNUITY FUNDS

Richard A. Gorgoglione
Chairman of Trustees

63 Flushing Ave. Building 292 – Suite 401 Brooklyn, NY
11205

Ph: (718) 455-9731 Ext. 301

Fx: (718) 488-7122

welfarefund@local891.com

Legal Services (718) 895-7160

Daniel H. Cook Associates

Welfare forms – eye care vouchers – claims information
253 W. 35th St., 12th Floor, New York NY 10001
(212) 505-5050 ext. 229

BOROUGH CHAIRPERSON

Bronx
Brooklyn
Manhattan
Queens
Staten Island

Michael King
Rocco Marano
John Brennan
Peter Maddaloni
Steve Ready

ext. 220
ext. 221
ext. 222
ext. 223
ext. 224

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Annual Children's Party
Blood Bank
Compensation Insurance
E.P.E.C
Editor, "TheGauge"
Education
Engineers Protective
Entertainment
Exceptions
Good and Welfare
Grievances 32BJ/94
Grievances 891
Hospitalization
Indoctrination
Legislative Co-Chairman
Legislative Co-Chairman
Membership
Membership Assistance
Occup. Health/Safety
Payroll/Permits
Pension
Rating and Transfer
StoreKeeper
Supplies
Temporary Care Assign
Watchdog Committee
WebMaster
NYC Central Labor Council Delegate
NYC Central Labor Council Delegate

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Evan Manca ext: 250
Trifon Radeff ext: 251
Gregory Sutton ext: 252
Daniel Danvers ext: 253
Frank Byrne ext: 314
Frank Felix ext: 255
Kieran McKivergan ext: 256
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