

THE GAUGE



MAY 2020

AFL-CIO

I.U.O.E LOCAL 891

THE FUTURE IS NOW



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

VARIABLE RATE

Unit Value for April, 2020
\$91.743

REGULAR MEMBERSHIP MEETING IN MANHATTAN

The May 2020 General Membership Meeting is Cancelled

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.

LOCAL 891 ANNUAL PICNIC WILL TAKE PLACE! DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

The Passing of Former Active CE Michael Ortiz

RENEWALS

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





PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Local 891 Member,

I hope that you and your families are doing well by staying safe and doing your best to follow such guidelines that are set in place. Thank you for continuing to perform your duties as Custodian Engineers. Being essential city employees, we must be extra cautious as we cannot work from home as mandated by the state.

It saddens me deeply to say that we have lost an active Local 891 member and other family members to Covid-19. It is with a sad heart I offer condolences to the following families:

Active Custodian Engineer, Michael Ortiz who left us on April 10, 2020 due to complications from Covid-19. Dennis R. Graves, retired CE New Dorp H.S. Staten Island is another casualty of Covid-19 complications. Dennis is the father of Custodian Engineer Sean Graves (K081). Dennis is also survived by his wife Joan, daughter Tara, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Diane Baker, sister of active Custodian Engineer Vincent M. McParland (M167) and daughter of deceased Custodian Engineer Vincent J. McParland, passed away from the Covid-19. Ernesto Diaz Sr, father of active Custodian Engineer Ernesto Diaz (Q204), from Covid-19 complications. Ryszard Balcerzak, father of active Custodian Engineer Milosz Balcerzak. Ryszard passed on April 24, 2020 most likely from complications of Covid-19. Since the April's edition of the Gauge, I have sent out numerous emails regarding important information that is beneficial to 891 members and their families, especially in these difficult times that we are facing.

Below is a summary of emails by dates and subject for your reference. Please be reminded, the Department of Education in order to facilitate remote learning is blocking all outside email links at this time. All Local 891 emails must be opened on your own device for any links to work.

Click below to read an of the listed emails.

[April 3 - Direct Deposit Information](#)

[April 14 - 891 Welfare Fund Legal Matters](#)

[April 14 - Workman's Compensation Claims](#)

[April 15 - Executive Order 202.16 \(Face Coverings\)](#)

[April 17 - Workman's Compensation Claims Follow-up.](#)

[April 17 - Building Access During Remote Learning Period](#)

[April 17 - Special Durable Power of Attorney](#)

[April 20 - Memo to Unions about the Employee Benefits Program](#)

[April 22 - Contractor Permit Submittals](#)

[April 23 - Union Plus Mortgage](#)

[April 27 - Refrigeration Classes Online](#)

[April 29 - College Credit Courses in Fall](#)

[April 30 - Free Bachelor's Degree Program](#)

Please remember to reach out to us with any concerns you may have. Together, we will get through this. Local 891 will fight to ensure we preserve our jobs and all our benefits!

Robert



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

**MICHAEL ORTIZ
ACTIVE CE, X009**

CONDOLENCES TO BONNIE ORTIZ
(WIFE)
41 NORTH 8TH STREET
KENILWORTH, NJ 07033

**DOMINIC J. ALTAMURO
RETIRED CE, Q158**

CONDOLENCES TO MARIA ALTAMURO
(WIFE)
92 ROSELLE STREET
MINEOLA, NY 11501

**DENNIS R. GRAVES
RETIRED CE, R435**

NO CONDOLENCES

**PETER CASANO
RETIRED CE, Q007**

CONDOLENCES TO JOAN CASANO
(WIFE)
20 NETTLES BLVD.
JENSEN BEACH, FL, 34967

**EDWIN J. BODEN
RETIRED CE, Q410**

CONDOLENCES TO SUSAN BODEN
3861 WILBURNE AVENUE
SEAFORD, NY 11783

**EUGENE C. KERR
RETIRED CE, X306**

CONDOLENCES TO ELLEN KERR
18 CRESTVIEW DRIVE
TOMPKINS COVE, NY 10986

**THOMAS PETRAGLIA
RETIRED CE, X041**

CONDOLENCES TO MARY PETRAGLIA
(WIFE)
39 HATHAWAY ROAD
BRONXVILLE, NY 10708

**BARBARA MEHELIC
RETIRED CE, M097**

NO CONDOLENCES



**CE MILOSZ BALCERZAK AND HIS
FATHER RYSZARD BALCERZAK**



**FRANK DIAZ, ERNESTO DIAZ, SR.,
FATHER OF ACTIVE CE ERNESTO DIAZ**



**DANE BAKER, SISTER OF ACTIVE CE
VINCENT MCPARLAND**



**RYSZARD BALCERZAK AND
GRANDCHILDREN**



**MICHAEL ORTIZ WITH HIS WIFE
BONNIE AND THEIR DAUGHTERS**



GOOD AND WELFARE

Theresa DiCristi, Good and Welfare Committee Chairperson

Brothers and Sisters,

It is with great sadness we announce the passing of Michael Ortiz, active Custodian Engineer – X009, on April 10, 2020 due to complications from COVID-19. He was only 48 years old and is survived by his wife Bonnie and their two daughters – Cara (15) and Jenna (17). Widow's Care for his building has been put in place with his salary being forwarded to the family. Thank you to Mike King, Bronx Borough Chairperson for his assistance and to Isaac Jimenez (X067) for stepping up as the first CE caring for his building.

Local 891's Beneficiary Fund will be accepting donations on behalf of the Ortiz Family. Please send whatever you can so that we may assist this family during this difficult time. Local 891's Beneficiary Fund will match each donation dollar for dollar. You can mail your donation to: IUOE Local 891 Beneficiary Fund, 63 Flushing Avenue, Bldg 292 Suite 401, Brooklyn NY 11205.

The Brothers and Sisters of 891 are truly a family, one that always comes together during trying times to support each other. Let's remember that spirit now more than ever as we support the Ortiz family and all our extended families.

The Widow's Care for Maurice Jones, active Custodian Engineer K208 who passed away January 28, 2020, continues. Thank you to Rocco Marano, Brooklyn Borough Chairperson for his assistance and to our fellow CE's who have stepped up to care for this building.

Please also keep in your thoughts and prayers our members and their families who have suffered a loss due to COVID-19: Vincent McParland (M167) whose sister Diane Baker passed away; Ernesto Diaz (Q204) whose father Ernesto Diaz, Sr. passed away and Milosz Balcerzak whose father Ryszard Balcerzak passed away.

To the families I would like to extend my deepest condolences. To all the families dealing with hardship during this troubling time please know, your Union – your family – is always here to support you!

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH/SAFETY

Joanne O'Neill - Occupational Health/Safety Chairperson

There is so much information becoming available to us. 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.org/coronavirus/>

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 proven safe and effective, it probably will not be available for another 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. It can affect anyone at any age 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 CDC 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, 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 keeping as much distance as possible, according to guidelines issued by the CDC. 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?

Yes, but with medical-grade surgical masks and N-95 masks in extremely high demand for healthcare workers and COVID-19 patients, the CDC suggests that the general public not buy them in effort to keep them in stock for people who need them most.

Instead, the CDC is now recommending that all people wear some sort of cloth face covering when in public – whether it be a homemade mask, a scarf or a bandana. Masks could offer some protection in crowded places where it is not possible to stay six feet away from other people. Masks don't replace hand-washing and social distancing.

Should I stock up on groceries?

If possible, plan two weeks of meals. 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, only if they are open but make sure you keep six feet of distance between you and people who don't live in your home. It's a good idea to get outside; go to the park, go for a jog or a walk for some fresh and hopefully some sunshine.

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 this link for the CDC website - <https://www.cdc.gov/>

Here is another helpful link:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/may/06/rashes-headaches-tingling-who-lists-less-common-coronavirus-symptoms-covid-19>

CDC UPDATES OFFICIAL GUIDANCE ON COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

The CDC has added to their list of official COVID-19 symptoms. In addition to fever, cough, and shortness of breath, the CDC now considers the following to be possible signs of the coronavirus.



Chills

Chills—which often accompany a fever—may make you feel cold, and unable to get warm despite being in a warm environment.

Repeated Shaking With Chills

In addition to chills, you may experience uncontrolled shivering.



Muscle Pain

Many patients have reported severe body aches.

Headache

Headaches are extremely common, but the CDC now says they may be a sign of a coronavirus infection—especially if you are also experiencing other coronavirus related symptoms.



Sore Throat

Pain or irritation in your throat, especially when you swallow, could be a symptom.

New Loss of Taste or Smell

If you've recently noticed that you're not smelling or tasting your morning coffee, it's possible that you're experiencing coronavirus symptoms.



SPECTRUM
NEWS

Reminder:

**ASBESTOS SCREENINGS
HAS BEEN POSTPONED
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

This article was originally submitted by Joanne O'Neill.

HOSPITALIZATION

Andrew Samberg, 891 Hospitalization Chairperson

Medicare Part B Reimbursement Schedule for Retirees

Medicare Part B 2019 Reimbursement

Medicare Part B 2019 reimbursements will be distributed by the end of April 2020.

For those retirees/eligible dependent of a retiree with a Medicare Part B effective date between 2016 and 2019, they will be reimbursed at the rate of \$135.50 per month. ($\135.50×12 months = \$1,626 annual amount).

For those retirees/eligible dependent of a retiree with a Medicare Part B effective date prior to 2016, they will be reimbursed at the rate of \$109.00 per month. ($\109×12 months = \$1,308 annual amount)

For those retirees/eligible dependent of a retiree with a Medicare Part B effective date prior to 2016, they will receive an additional amount up to \$300. They must submit a Medicare Part B 2019 Reimbursement Differential Request Form.

IRMAA 2019 Reimbursement

IRMAA 2019 reimbursements are scheduled to be issued by the end of October 2020.

Those retirees who are eligible for IRMAA must submit the IRMAA 2019 Reimbursement Application.

Health Benefits Program staff will be processing 2019 IRMAA forms once the Medicare Part B 2019 payment is issued in April 2020.

**Andrew Samberg, IUOE Local 891
Hospitalization Committee Chair
883 Classon Avenue Room 112
Brooklyn, NY 11225
Phone: 718.455.9731 ext. 261
Fax 718.366.1757**

Medicare Part B 2019 Differential Reimbursement

Medicare Part B 2019 differential reimbursements are scheduled to be issued by the end of March 2021.

Medicare Part B 2019 differential payments up to \$300 will be issued once the Medicare Part B and IRMAA payments are processed in calendar year 2020.

Those retirees who are eligible for 2019 Medicare Part B differential reimbursements must submit the Medicare Part B 2019 Reimbursement Differential Request Form.

Health Benefits Program staff will be processing Medicare Part B 2019 Reimbursement Differential Request Form once IRMAA payments are issued in October 2020.

Please note that, if you are applying for IRMAA and eligible for this additional \$300 reimbursement, you do not need to complete the Medicare Part B 2019 Reimbursement Differential Request Form since you will be receiving this amount at the same time the IRMAA payment is issued in October 2020.

Please contact me for further information if needed.

PENSION

Christopher Attianese - Pension Chairperson

SUSPENSION OF RMD'S FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2020

BERS will suspend all Required Minimum Distributions (RMD's) from the BERS TDA program for calendar year 2020. The suspension would apply to all 2019 RMD's that are required to be made by April 1, 2020 (unless already issued), and to 2020 RMD's that are required to be made by April 1, 2021.

This suspension is not limited to qualified individuals, but applies to all accounts holders. Although BERS will not automatically issue you a RMD, you may withdraw funds from your TDA account by submitting a TDA withdrawal form to BERS.

COMPENSATION INSURANCE

Trifon Radev - 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.

CUSTODIAL HELPER COMMITTEE

Marvin Rodriguez - Committee Chairperson

Theresa DiCristi - Committee Member

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

During these unprecedented times, I would like to thank all of the 891 members for your hard work and patience in dealing with the Covid-19 paper work for the employees (32BJ and 94). It has not been easy for NYCSSS to keep up with it but as always, we were still there to make sure the employees got paid. I would like to also inform you that NYCSSS will not be providing any fill-in workers or vacation relief workers until September or when school restarts. Please continue to fill out the DAFs when necessary and send them in to NYCSSS. Please copy me at grievances32-94@local891.com as well as your borough chairperson. At some point we will resume grievances and catch up. Thank you, stay healthy and safe.

- 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

In partnership with the CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies, Local 891 is proud to announce that we will be hosting two College Credit Courses this Fall at our Union Offices.

- Beginning Tuesday evening, September 1, 2020 you can attend a 3 credit course titled "Language, Literacy, and Culture". Click [here](#) to view flyer. Click on this [link](#) for the application.
- On Thursday evenings beginning September 3, 2020 also from 5:00 pm to 8:20 pm you can earn 4 credits in a course titled "Introduction to Labor Studies" Click [here](#) to view flyer.

These courses are planned for traditional in-person classroom attendance. However if circumstances dictate, we are set up for distant learning. For the "Introduction to Labor Studies" course there is an online registration/information session that will take about an hour. This is scheduled for May 20, 2020 at 5:00pm. **Local 891 will reimburse Active members for tuition costs.**

If you have any questions please contact the Local 891 Education & Training Fund at education@local891.com.

Union Plus in cooperation with Central State University and Eastern Gateway Community College introduce free College Degree programs for you and your family members!

Complete Your Bachelor's Degree For Free This Summer

Students enrolling in the summer classes can complete their degree with no out-of-pocket cost*.

With our Bachelor's Degree Completion Program, you can finish your teacher education or business administration bachelor's degree affordably, safely and on your own time.

Because of the current economic and health uncertainty facing that many union members are facing, students who enroll in the summer 2020 term will complete their ENTIRE DEGREE FOR FREE (no out-of-pocket cost for tuition, fees or e-books) until graduation, not just the summer term.*

If you are unemployed, furloughed or laid off, don't worry — you and your extended family members are still eligible to enroll in the Bachelor's Degree Completion Program with no cost.

In partnership with Central State University, this flexible, 100% online program gives you the ability to work on assignments 24/7. In addition, your courses are transferable to other schools and financial aid is available to students demonstrating need — including those affected by the Coronavirus pandemic.

Summer classes begin May 18, 2020.

Get started by calling 888-897-9671 or enrolling online.

For information contact the Local 891 Education & Training Fund at education@local891.com

**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**

**LOCAL 891'S PICNIC WILL
TAKE PLACE!**

DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

THE GAUGE

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

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Building 292, Suite 401
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

ROBERT J. TROELLER
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 FUND

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

Peter Maddaloni **ext: 249**
Evan Manca **ext: 250**
Trifon Radef **ext. 251**
Gregory Sutton **ext. 252**
Daniel Danvers **ext. 253**
Frank Byrne **ext. 314**
Frank Felix **ext. 255**
Kieran McKivergan **ext. 256**
Dan Morgan **ext. 274**
Theresa DiCristi **ext. 258**
Marvin Rodriguez **ext. 259**
John Maderich **ext. 260**
Andrew Samberg **ext. 261**
Steven Williams **ext. 262**
William Carroll **ext. 263**
Michael Kelly **ext. 261**
Kieran McKivergan **ext. 264**
Vincent McParland **ext. 265**
Joanne O'Neill **ext. 266**
Andrew Foti **ext. 267**
Christopher Attianese **ext. 268**
Robert Calamia **ext. 269**
Steve Pepdjonovic **ext. 270**
Michael Kelly **ext. 271**
Joseph Sanfilippo **ext. 272**
Christopher J. Attianese **ext. 273**
Dan Morgan **ext. 274**
Anthony DelRosso **ext. 275**
Richard Gorgoglione **ext. 276**