

APRIL 2021

# THE GAUGE



I.U.O.E LOCAL 891

AFL-CIO



## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

### VARIABLE RATE

Unit Value for March 2021  
\$138.777

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

### HOSPITALIZATION

### LOCAL 891 2020 RETIREES

### LABOR HISTORY REMEMBERS

### 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 Chairperson.

### RENEWALS

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

**PLEASE BE AWARE THAT ALL RENEWALS MUST BE DONE ONLINE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Brothers and Sisters,

Congratulations to the 56 previously Provisional Local 891 members who were hired from the Civil Service list as of February 24, 2021. An additional 60 new Custodian Engineers have been interviewed by DSF and will begin training in mid-June. Shortly afterwards, all of those who were hired in February and June will be able to pick their assignments adhering to the rules of Civil Service Law and our CBA (Collective Bargaining Agreement). The newly hired will pick from assignments previously offered on the last two vacancy lists that were not awarded to eligible candidates.

I hope those members who wanted to be vaccinated have had the opportunity to do so. I am still optimistic that New York State will soon issue revised capacity guidance that will allow us to return to having in-person General Membership Meetings. As I have stated in the past, our International has issued clear guidance that the Local could not conduct virtual Union Meetings. I look forward to seeing you soon.

The deadline for certain September 11th Victim Compensation Fund Claims (VCF) is July 29, 2021.

You and your family members may be at risk of forfeiting substantial compensation for pain and suffering, lost earnings, and medical expenses associated with illnesses and/or injuries caused by the September 11th terrorist attacks.

Generally, there is a two-year period to file a claim for wrongful death or personal injury with the VCF, which begins to run upon the death of a decedent or upon certification by the World Trade Center Health Program that an illness was related to 9/11. Because many eligible individuals had been unaware of these deadlines, the VCF had extended the deadline for the filing these claims. The extension of the filing deadlines will end permanently on July 29, 2021

For claimants in the following categories, this will be the last chance to register a timely claim if they have not already done so:

1. Claims on behalf of individuals who passed away prior to July 29, 2019.
2. Claims made by individuals who were certified by the WTC Health Program prior to July 29, 2019

Conditions eligible for compensation include nearly every form of cancer, including skin cancers: aerodigestive disorders, including asthma, sleep apnea, sinus issues and acid reflux, respiratory illnesses such as COPD and emphysema: and interstitial lung diseases such as asbestosis and sarcoidosis.

To visit the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund click [here](#).

Regards,

Robert

March 10 The next Certified Pool Operator

March 11 Passing of Aristomenis (Artie) Pantelides

March 16 Step - up procedures

March 21 Provisional Custodian Engineers

March 29 Second Day of Passover

March 30 L891 Committee Chairpersons





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

**FRANCES J. DUFFY**

**RETIRED CE & CUSTODIAN SUPERVISOR**

**CONDOLENCES TO:**

**EILEEN TRASLAVINA (DAUGHTER)**

**10 SPYGLASS LANE**

**STAATSBURG, NY 12580**

**ARISTOMENIS "ARTIE" PANTELIDES**

**RETIRED CE, M198**

**CONDOLENCES TO:**

**DAVID AND STEPHEN PANTELIDES**

**211-01 42 AVENUE APT 3B**

**BAYSIDE NY 11361**

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

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## BLOOD BANK

*Evan Manca, Blood Bank Committee Chairperson*

Save the date! **FRIDAY, MAY 28, 2021.**

The next Local 891 blood drive is scheduled for Friday May 28th. All three sites will be open: Navy Yard, Melville, and Staten Island.

New York Blood Center has announced that maintaining an adequate blood supply during the pandemic has been a tremendous challenge. With most businesses, schools, and colleges still not hosting community blood drives, they are very low on donations.

Local 891 has had successful drives year after year. The Blood Center is counting on us to maintain a steady number of donors. We encourage everyone to come and donate on May 28th. Help us make our drive a continued success.

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## GRIEVANCES 32BJ/94

*Marvin Rodriguez, Grievances 32BJ/94 Committee Chairperson*

The Grievance Committee is here to help you navigate the process of disciplining employees and working with NYCSSS.

This has been a difficult year but please respond to emails for grievances. NYCSSS is backlogged on cases. If you have an issue or believe something may have been overlooked, contact me or Theresa. Reach out to your Union first by contacting your Borough Chairperson NOT your DDF.

When writing a DAF, you can use Epay to write it, print it have it signed or witnessed and lastly sent to Human Resources at <https://nycsss.org> or fax it to 844-8934, 045. **Do not send it only by Epay.**

When disciplining your staff with DAF, submit the DAF as you complete writing each individual one. If you create a large group and submit it as one, NYCSSS will consider this as one incident instead of multiple incidents. If you have questions, feel free to contact me or Theresa DiCristi.

Be careful when requesting a fill-in (temporary replacement worker) that you only fill out the PAF. **DO NOT** use the vacancy form unless you have an open position.

Employees must sign work schedules, directives, re-training and protocols. Employee does not have to sign DAF but it does need to be signed by a witness. NYCSSS is requesting to have DAFs signed.

# GRIEVANCES 891

John Maderich, Grievance Committee Chairperson

Any Custodian Engineers who have a Principal Rating Grievance filed and are willing to do their arbitration virtually should contact me at (718)445-9731 Ext. 260 or [grievances891@local891.com](mailto:grievances891@local891.com).

## HOSPITALIZATION

Andrew Samberg, Hospitalization Committee Chairperson

### Important Notice

The Health Benefits Retiree client service walk-in center is closed. Due to the closure of the office, retirees who mailed or faxed forms or correspondence March 11, 2020 or after, we cannot access or process that form. Please resubmit inquiries and documents as follows:

1) Forms and documents can be submitted electronically through Leap FILE.

- Before you begin, you may wish to **view instructions and a short video** on how to submit your forms/documents.
- When you are ready, use the following link to submit your forms and documents:  
**<https://nycemployeebenefits.leapfile.net>**
- Please do NOT submit your form/document more than once. This will only delay processing.
- You will immediately receive notification stating "Success! Your file has been received" upon completion of your document upload. You will not receive a separate email confirmation.
- Please allow 30-45 days from the day you submit your document(s) for them to be processed. Coverage will be retroactive to the effective date of retirement.
- Also, please do not send forms or documents via express mail. The office is closed and the package cannot be accepted.
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2) Inquiries and questions can be emailed to: [healthbenefits@olr.nyc.gov](mailto:healthbenefits@olr.nyc.gov) - do not send forms through email (see #1 above)

3) For questions regarding the PICA prescription drug benefit program please call 1-800-467-2006.

4) If you are a HIP-HMO member turning 65 or on Medicare due to a disability, please contact HIP at 1-800-447-9169 to enroll over the phone. Please identify yourself as a City of New York retiree or dependent of a retiree. For all other members enrolled in a HMO plan, please contact your health plan at the customer service numbers on the back of your ID card.

Please note that ACTIVE employees can contact NYCAPS Central by:

1) Phone - (212) 487-0500

2) Email - nycapscentral@dcas.nyc.gov Or HealthBenefits@dcas.nyc.gov

Please check our website periodically for updates.

Download Adobe Scan to convert your documents into PDFs. Use your smart phone or tablet camera to take a picture of your paper form and Adobe Scan will convert it to a PDF. Adobe Scan mobile app is available for iPhone and Android.

## OCCUPATION HEALTH/SAFETY

Joanne O'Neill - Occup. Health/Safety Committee Chairperson

### Tips For Relieving Stress

Every day we are striving to accomplish deadlines whether it be surveys, zoom meetings, covid, book delivery issues, employee and boss related issues etc. I could go on and on. We also have family needs, some more than others.

STRESS, we all have it! Most of us deal with it in stride. Fortunately if you need some help our union offers brothers and sisters that we can speak with. **Thank You Vinny McParland!**

You have to realize that too much stress or even low level stress that goes on without a break for long periods of time can be a problem. We think we can handle it because we take it in stride. When researching stress I came across some interesting information and would like to share.

It is known that our ancestors had developed a hard-wired physical response to stress that evolved to help protect them from predators and other threats back at the dawn of human history known as "Fight-or-Flight". It is still wired in us! The system survives today and it can be triggered by many less physically threatening, but no less upsetting situations that we face daily in our jobs and at home. Whenever our ancestors were threatened with mortal danger like saber toothed tigers, there were certain hormones released which incited this response and the same happens to us with continuous daily stress.

Below, please find an interesting article to read that explains the whole process and hopefully we can control our daily stress better.....

<https://health.clevelandclinic.org/what-happens-to-your-body-during-the-fight-or-flight-response/>

Next month I will give some more Tips for Relieving Daily Stress

# PAYROLL AND PERMITS

Andrew Foti - Payroll and Permits Chairperson

**Please note the following updated rates for FICA and the "New York State Paid Family Deductions", has changed for 2021.**

## **F.I.C.A.**

The annual earnings limit for F.I.C.A. (Social Security Tax) is \$142,800.00 for 2021. There are currently no changes in the Medicare portion of FICA.

## **New York State - Paid Family Deductions**

The 2021 payroll contribution rate is 0.511% of your gross weekly wages and is capped at an annual maximum of \$385.34.

Kindly note and be guided by the above rates. Thank you in advance.

## **CORRECTION**

We failed to mention other retirees in the March Gauge. Apologies gentlemen and congratulations on your retirement!

**Kevin Sheehy, X430**

**Stephen McPartland, Q136**

**Isaac Alboher, Q566**





Pictures courtesy of [www.Bing.com/Images](http://www.Bing.com/Images): Left, fire in 1911; Middle, early women's union protest; Right, building as it stands currently.

Local 891 honors those who have paid the ultimate price and paved the path for the protections we now hold dear under the guises of labor.

March 25, 2021 marks the one hundred and tenth anniversary of the Triangle Shirt-waist Fire. Every year, unions, labor leaders, elected officials, and the general public pays tribute at this site.

The fire was likely sparked by a discarded cigarette and started on the eighth floor of the Asch Building located at 23–29 Washington Place, just east of Washington Square Park. That eighth floor and the two floors above were occupied by the Triangle Waist Company, a manufacturer of women's shirtwaists (blouses) that employed approximately 500 people.

The flames, fed by piles of cotton and paper waste, quickly spread upward to the top two floors of the building. Fire truck ladders were only able to reach six stories, and the building's overloaded fire escape collapsed. Many workers, trapped by doors that had been locked to prevent theft, leapt from windows to their deaths.

The 129 women and 17 men who perished in the 18-minute inferno were mostly young European immigrants. It took several days for family members to identify the victims, many of whom were burned beyond recognition. Six of the victims, all placed under a monument in a New York City cemetery, were not identified until 2011 through research conducted by an amateur genealogist.

A citywide outpouring of grief peaked on April 5, 1911, in a 100,000-strong procession behind the hearses that carried the dead along Fifth Avenue; thousands more observed the memorial gathering.

Though the owners of the factory were indicted later that month on charges of manslaughter, they were acquitted in December 1911; the owners ultimately profited from inflated insurance claims that they submitted after the tragedy. However, the uproar generated by the disaster led to the creation of the Factory Investigating Commission by the New York state legislature in June.

Over the following year and a half, members of the commission visited factories, interviewed workers, and held public hearings. The commission's findings ultimately led to the passage of more than 30 health and safety laws, including factory fire codes and child labor restrictions, and helped shape future labor laws across the country.

The Asch Building (later called the Brown Building) became a national landmark in 1991.

# THE GAUGE

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

Brooklyn Navy Yard, 63 Flushing Avenue  
Building 292, Suite 401  
Brooklyn, NY 11205

Ph: (718) 455-9731 Fx: (718) 455-9733

[www.Local891.com](http://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**  
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**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 CHAIRPERSONS

<b>Bronx</b>	Michael King	<b>ext. 220</b>
<b>Brooklyn</b>	Rocco Marano	<b>ext. 221</b>
<b>Manhattan</b>	John Brennan	<b>ext. 222</b>
<b>Queens</b>	Peter Maddaloni	<b>ext. 223</b>
<b>Staten Island</b>	Steve Ready	<b>ext. 224</b>

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Annual Children's Party	Peter Maddaloni	<b>ext: 249</b>
Blood Bank	Evan Manca	<b>ext: 250</b>
Compensation Insurance	Trifon Radef	<b>ext. 251</b>
E.P.E.C	Gregory Sutton	<b>ext. 252</b>
Editor, "TheGauge"	Daniel Danvers	<b>ext. 253</b>
Education	Frank Byrne	<b>ext. 214</b>
Engineers Protective	Frank Felix	<b>ext. 255</b>
Entertainment	Kieran McKivergan	<b>ext. 256</b>
Exceptions	Dan Morgan	<b>ext. 274</b>
Good and Welfare	Theresa DiCristi	<b>ext. 258</b>
Grievances 32BJ/94	Marvin Rodriguez	<b>ext. 259</b>
Grievances 891	John Maderich	<b>ext. 260</b>
Hospitalization	Andrew Samberg	<b>ext. 261</b>
Indoctrination	Steven Williams	<b>ext. 262</b>
Legislative Chairman	Michael Kelly	<b>ext. 261</b>
Membership	Kieran McKivergan	<b>ext. 264</b>
Membership Assistance	Vincent McParland	<b>ext. 265</b>
Occup. Health/Safety	Joanne O'Neill	<b>ext. 266</b>
Payroll/Permits	Andrew Foti	<b>ext. 267</b>
Pension	Christopher Attianese	<b>ext. 268</b>
Rating and Transfer	Robert Calamia	<b>ext. 269</b>
StoreKeeper	Stevo Pepdjonovic	<b>ext. 270</b>
Supplies	Michael Kelly	<b>ext. 271</b>
Temporary Care Assign	Joseph Sanfilippo	<b>ext. 272</b>
Watchdog Committee	Christopher J. Attianese	<b>ext. 273</b>
WebMaster	Dan Morgan	<b>ext. 274</b>
NYC Central Labor Council Delegate	Anthony DelRosso	<b>ext. 275</b>
NYC Central Labor Council Delegate	Richard Gorgoglione	<b>ext. 276</b>