



Local 891 AFL-CIO

February 2022

THE GAUGE

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Variable Rate

Unit Value for January 2022

156.643

Regular Membership Meeting

Regular Membership Meeting will be held February 3rd
At M167 Robert Wagner Middle School
220 East 76th Street
Between 2nd & 3rd Avenues

Direct Deposit

Members who are not already
enrolled in direct deposit
are encouraged to do so by
accessing the payroll portal

Renewals

Please be aware of your license and permit renewal
date. Apply and renew on time to avoid fees and
disciplinary action.

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

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 the Grievance
Chairperson.

Business Manager's Report



Brothers and Sisters,

Other than an emergency, you are not required to work outside your normal work hours. You are not obligated to read or respond to work related emails outside of your normally scheduled work hours whatsoever. You are not on call 24 hours per day. Employees who are on call are paid extra whenever they are "on call". Your job is to properly schedule staff, not to do the work of your staff.

In the event of an emergency such as flooding, fires, or the emergency use of your building you are responsible to address the situation by whatever means necessary; your attendance in such an event may initially be required. If you opt for the reimbursement for a home phone you are still only responsible to respond to emergencies. In an emergency, you can utilize any employee from any school building to handle the situation and then promptly notify NYCSSS. Cold weather, deliveries, surveys, payroll, and other routine matters are not an emergency. You are not obligated to respond to every inquiry. While you may choose to do things related to caring for your building outside of your normal work hours you are not required to do so; you are not paid to do so.

Please be reminded that we recently sent out our Consolidated Collective Bargaining Agreement. Nowhere in the agreement does it state you are responsible to answer emails outside of work hours. Nowhere in the agreement does it indicate you are responsible to provide a cellphone number where you can be reached. Nowhere in the agreement does it state you are required to respond to any requests to work outside of your normal work hours besides addressing an emergency. If your plant manager calls your home phone, or cell if you have shared it, and leaves a message describing a true emergency, only then are you obligated to respond.

Any request for records from the Office of the Auditor General had to be requested by 12/31/2021. Any request made after that does not need to be complied with as per our recent agreement with DSF. I have mentioned this agreement before but failed to share it; it can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

As mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, new members are set to join our ranks on February 7th. According to DSF, more custodians will also be hired soon. We are excited to welcome our new brothers and sisters into our strong union!

Fraternally,
Robert J Troeller

January's Electronic Communications

January 24 - Annual Reception

January 21 - Passing of Carlos Miguel Crespo

January 20 - Free at Home Covid Tests

January 20 - DOE Priority Testing Sites Closed

January 20 - Passing of Viola D Duverge Diaz

January 11 - Update from the MLC Regarding Medicare

January 10 - Top 5 Transfer Standing

January 7 - Passing of Michael Kyprios

January 7 - Official Vacancy/Transfer List Results

January 4 - You are Not Required to Pick Up Materials or Supplies

January 3 - DOE Priority Testing Sites Clarification

January 3 - Collective Bargaining Agreement Consolidated (Corrections)

The Holiday schedule for February 2022 is as follows:

Lunar New Year, Tuesday, February 1, 2022 is a holiday for Local 891 members and Local 32BJ members. It is a regular workday for all Local 94 members.

President's Day, Monday, February 21, 2022 is a holiday for Local 891 and Local 32BJ members. It is a regular workday for Local 94 members.

Lincoln's Birthday (Observed), Friday, February 25, 2022 is a holiday for Local 891 members only.

(Unfortunately)

Valentine's Day, February 14th is not an official holiday!



The Annual Reception is going to be held
on February 4th at Russo's on the Bay
**New School Chancellor David Banks is
Scheduled to Attend**

FMLA

FMLA Committee Chairperson, Judith Koonce

Brothers and Sisters,

I hope all is well with you and your families.

The Division of School Facilities is allowing our members to stay on Payroll when they are approved for their Paid Family Leave.

This is great news because we will be paid our current salary and not lose pension hours. Also, any automatic deductions from your paycheck such as TDA contribution/loans will not be interrupted.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding the use and benefits that are available to you under the Paid Family Leave Act.

In solidarity,
Judith Koonce



CUSTODIAL HELPER

Custodial Helper Committee Chairperson, Marvin Rodriguez

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Let me first say that I do understand the frustration that everyone is feeling with the issues of NYCSSS, but here are a few things to keep in mind.

A two-week letter of termination from NYCSSS does not mean that the employee is terminated at the end of the two weeks. The employee is still entitled to a grievance hearing even if it goes past the two weeks.

When you have a TC, please do your best to make sure that there are CE directives and, if need be, write the employee up using the DAF's issued by NYCSSS.

When you get an email about a grievance, please respond even if you can't make it. If its incorrect, or a TC, please answer the email and explain it.

Please make sure 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 have to sign work schedules, directives, and re-training and protocols. They do not have to sign DAFs. However, if they choose not to sign, you must have a witness present. It can be anyone, including a neighboring custodian.

A fill-in (NYCSSS) does not need two weeks notice if their services are no longer needed.

Please don't get offended if I do not call you back or get back to you that day or the day after. Theresa and I are doing our best to get back to everyone as quickly as we can.

There are a lot of cases between grievance and arbitration. Remember we also have our own schools to run. That being said, if I don't get back to you after a day or two, please call me or email me. You can also reach out to Theresa.

Thank You and stay safe,

Marvin Rodriguez



INDOCTRINATION

Indoctrination Committee Chairperson, Dwight Woodley

Local 891 continues to grow!

Indoctrination Chairperson, Dwight Woodley reports that there will be an indoctrination for the newest incoming members of Local 891. Indoctrination will be at Local 891 Union Offices on February 8th & 9th. They will begin their employment on the 7th.



SUPPLIES

Supplies Committee Chairperson. Harry Cender

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As you are all aware, the DSF has replenished our supplies, equipment, and our Covid allocations.

All members should stay diligent with keeping at least a 30 plus day supply of all PPE. If you are unable to, email your DDF.

The take-home Covid test kits are now listed on the weekly PPE survey. The Covid test kits are to be given to the principal and you should ask them for a weekly count for your survey.

Be reminded, as per President Troeller's email, that nothing in our collective bargaining agreement requires you to leave your school building to pick up supplies or materials.

Fraternally,
Harry W. Cender
Supplies Committee Chairpersons

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY

Occupational Health & Safety Committee Chairperson, Joanne O'Neill

How to Safely Prepare your Snow Blowers and Equipment for Winter

We are already starting to see those snowflakes coming down, so let us get ready and be prepared for Mother Nature. Even if the big snowstorm of the season is weeks away, now is the time to get your snow blower ready for winter. You don't want that first snowfall to hit and find out your machine is not in working condition. In just about an hour, you can prep your snow blower and diagnose an issue that may need repair.

Most common issues are engine-starting and damaged augers. Check skids and scraper bars. The last situation you want, is to be fiddling with a shear pin or other spot fixes in cold frigid weather while the inches are accumulating, and your hands are freezing up. I'm sure we have all experienced that situation in our careers.

Here are a few tips for the best preparation:

1. You should drain the tank of gas if you had not filled it with some stabilized fuel at the end of last spring. If not, I hope, your machine forgives you and it starts up! Remember, unstable fuel can gum up the carburetor and fuel passages. If this is your situation then let's drain the old fuel using a siphon or use your own safe method. Fill up the tank with gas and put some fuel stabilizer in it and hopefully it turns over.

2. Check the oil. Today's models have a separate oil reserve and dipsticks similar to cars. If the oil seems dark and dirty it is time for a change. Most reservoirs have a bolt you can unscrew, and you can then tilt the machine back and drain the old oil into a container. Replace the bolt and refill the reservoir with oil. Make sure you check the owner's manual for the right type and grade oil.

3. My favorite, "Kick the Tires". Your tires are most likely pneumatic and will need to be topped off before you put it to work. Invest in a tire gauge and check your owner's manual for proper pressure. Underinflated tires can make handling the machine more difficult and dangerous to the operator, especially when turning. Too much air and the tires can pop!

4. If you have a multistage snow blower, the shear pins are the small bolts that protect the transmission in case the auger jams. This can happen after it scoops up a chunk of ice or debris hidden in the snow. If the pins are showing any kind of corrosion or wear and tear, it is wise to replace them. Most blowers come with extra ones. The pins slide in place and tighten with a bolt. Never use bolts without shear pins, since bolts will not break under pressure, increasing the risk of a damaged transmission.

5. Spray the discharge chute to prevent clogging. Spray it down with WD-40, cooking spray or check manufacturers manual.

6. Finally tighten all nuts and bolts around the control since they tend to loosen as a snow blower vibrates. Lubricate all cables and moving parts as detailed in your owner's manual. In addition, I always have extra parts on hand. Do yourself a favor and order some pins, WD-40, oil, and spark plugs.

Be sure to have enough calcium and rock salt on hand for ice conditions. Check your shovels and encourage workers to have snow gear ready to go.

Most important if you are uncomfortable doing any of these steps call a brother or sister for support or help. We are all here to help and educate one another. No question is a stupid question.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY

ASBESTOS SCREENING

I would like to have another asbestos screening for the month of February or March . We need at least 25 applications to move forward. Remember, if you have a combined total of 10 years with Local 32, 94, & 891, you qualify for an exam. Also, you can get a flu shot at the screening. Let's get the year started with a good exam!

CHILDREN'S PARTY

Children's Party Committee Chairperson. Peter Maddaloni

Children's Party Committee Chairperson, Peter Maddaloni, would like to send out an additional thank you to the 891 membership for their generosity. In addition to the traditional children's holiday party, Local 891 also donated gifts to the Queens Floating Hospital. Other boroughs also donated to different local organizations, who really appreciated 891's generous gesture.



Peter Maddaloni with new
NYC Department of Education
Chancellor David Banks



JANUARY'S REGULAR MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The regular membership meeting for January was held on the 6th at M167 in Manhattan. At the helm was Vice President Jeffrey Bilek for Business Manager/President, Robert J. Troeller. As usual, the meeting was very informative with many questions and answers. There was also the opportunity to meet and get reports from the newest Committee members. The next meeting will be on February 3rd at M167, Robert Wagner Middle School located at 220 East 76th Street - Between 2nd & 3rd Avenues. Please attend and let your voices be heard.



Frank Byrne: Education,
"Classes available for members"



Vice President, Jeffrey Bilek:
"Review and understand recent Collective Bargaining Agreement"



Peter Maddaloni:
Children's Holiday Party,
"Thank you to all members."



Kieran McKivergan: Entertainment,
"Provide your vaccination info
for Annual Reception"



Dwight Woodley: Indoctrination,
"new members to 891"



Philip Navetta: Payroll/Permits,
"Submit your space sheets/correct codes"



Anthony Del Rosso: NYC Central Council Delegate,
"I have a 7 page report from Billy Carroll"



Marvin Rodriguez: Custodial Helper,
"everyone must report for snow
duty!!!"



Harry Cender: Supplies, "make
sure you have a 30 day supply!!"

Scenes From Regular Membership Meeting



You can always find Stevo in the lobby at all regular membership meetings to get your cool 891 gear.



Our Brothers' & Sisters' bonds grow even stronger at meetings



IN MEMORIAM

Micahel Kyprios
Retired CE, M440
Condolences to:
Lorraine Kyrrios (Spouse)
5138 Post Road
Bronx, NY 10471



Thomas J. Kenny
Retired CE, Q405
Condolences to:
Carol Kenny (Spouse)
500 SE 21st Avenue
Deerfield Beach, Fl 33441- 5401





THE GAUGE

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Borough Chairpersons

Bronx	Michael King	ext. 220
Brooklyn	Andrew Foti	ext. 221
Manhattan	John Brennan	ext. 222
Queens	Peter Maddaloni	ext. 223
Staten Island	Steve Ready	ext. 224

Committee Chairpersons

Children's Party	Peter Maddaloni	ext. 249
Blood Bank	Evan Manca	ext. 250
Compensation Ins.	Trifon Radef	ext. 251
E.P.E.C.	Gregory Sutton	ext. 252
Editor "The Gauge"	Daniel Danvers	ext. 253
Education	Francis J. Byrne	ext. 119
Engineers' Protective	Frank Felix	ext. 255
Entertainment	Kieran McKivergan	ext. 256
Exceptions	Dan Morgan	ext. 257
FMLA	Judith Koonce	ext. 278
Good & Welfare	Theresa DiCristi	ext. 258
Custodial Helpers	Marvin Rodriguez	ext. 259
Grievances	John Maderich	ext. 260
Hospitalization	Andrew Samberg	ext. 261
Indoctrination	Dwight Woodley	ext. 262
Legislative Chair	Michael Kelly	ext. 271
Membership	Kieran McKivergan	ext. 264
Membership Assistance	Vincent McParland	ext. 265
Occupational Health/Safety	Joanne O'Neill	ext. 266
Payroll/Permits	Philip Navetta	ext. 267
Pension	Nicholas Souto	ext. 268
Rating & Transfer	Robert Calamia	ext. 269
Store Keeper	Stevio Pepdjonovic	ext. 270
Supplies	Harry Cender	ext. 271
Temp Care Assign	Joseph Sanfilippo	ext. 272
Webmaster	Dan Morgan	ext. 274
NYC Central Council Delegate	Anthony Del Rosso	ext. 275
NYC Central Council Delegate	Richard Gorgoglione	ext. 276



THE FUTURE IS NOW

