June 2023

The Gauge

Local 891 AFL-CIO

General Membership Meeting

The Union Picnic on June 17th will act as June's General Membership Meeting

Variable Rate

Variable Rate Unit Value for May, 2023 $130.120

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 & Sisters,

Many of us, including myself, sometimes fail to recognize the changes that have occurred around us. Sometimes, you recognize the changes but fail to accept them. Either way, the changes have occurred. Lately, there have been several SCI (Special Commissioner of Investigation) reports regarding the storage of personal equipment and property on school grounds and in school buildings. That is NOT allowed. You should not have any of your own equipment or property stored at any DOE property. I am not talking about small personal items any of us would have in our office.

Under the now defunct indirect system, starting in 1994, any 2% equipment purchased by CEs remained the property of the department. At this time, there is no reason any CE should be transferring Department of Education equipment between buildings. The largest schools have become graveyards for old equipment while many smaller buildings lack the equipment they need. None of your school's neighbors will say a word if they see you bringing equipment into the building; a lot of people will, however, call 311 if you are seen taking equipment out of the school. If you have personal tools and/or equipment you wish to use in your building be sure to get written permission to do so. An email with a photo of the equipment would be helpful. This should help to protect you from any allegations of theft of school equipment as well as helping to protect you from liability in the unfortunate event a staff member or other person becomes hurt while using your equipment.

Negotiations for our new contract are ongoing. I will do my best to get your well-deserved raise as quickly as possible. I genuinely appreciate the contribution of ideas I have received from so many of you. As always the details of the private conversations that occur at negotiations will remain private. Once we reach a tentative agreement, everyone will know all details and have a chance to vote on the changes.

I hope to see you at the picnic! Have a wonderful summer!

Fraternally,
Robert

Electronic Communications

May 8th Message From Supply Chairperson
May 9th Passing of Sara Varela
May 10th Local 891 Picnic Open to Additional Guests
May 18th Passing of Alice & Lenard Scotto
May 24th Vacancy / Transfer List Results
May 25th ITEC Training Brochure
May 30th Top 5 Transfer Standings

Local 891 Picnic

& June Monthly General Membership Meeting

June 17th

12:30PM - 4:30PM

Plattduetsche Park

1132 Hempstead Turnpike,
Franklin Square, NY 11010

Join your Brothers & Sisters for a wonderful time with good food, drinks, and activities for all ages!

Each member is offered a free ticket for themselves and one guest!
Children of members under 21 will also be welcome at no cost!
Additional Guests will be welcome but will need to pay $50
EVERYONE ATTENDING MUST BE REGISTERED BEFOREHAND

Buses Available Leaving From:

Bronx

M.S. X101 Edward R. Byrne
2750 Lafayette Ave,
Bronx, NY

Staten Island

Michael J. Petrides School
715 Ocean Terrace,
Staten Island, NY

Brooklyn

P371
355 37th Street
Brooklyn, NY

SUPPLIES

Harry Cender, Supply Committee Chairperson

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to extend my congratulations to all the transfer winners. It is important to remember to provide the incoming CE with all the information about any outstanding orders and to certify all orders before leaving.

As we slowly return to normal, we need to be mindful that manufacturing and supply chain issues will continue to affect us for an unknown amount of time. Although the supply chain is making progress, we still need at least 30 days' worth of supplies on hand. If you are running low, please notify your DDF and request additional funding. DSF is aware that the underfunded allocations and increasing prices are making it difficult for us to keep up. They have provided more help this FY than in years past.

When you encounter issues with late deliveries, shortages, quotes, questions, and any other concerns, please report them to NYCcustodial@sdi.com and CC your DDF, SDIcomplaints@schools.nyc.gov, and your borough chairperson. When copying me on any email, please use Supplies@local891.com. Do not use my school code or my name email.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. My contact information is on the back of the gauge.

Finally, I would like to remind everyone always to spend their funds wisely and with good judgment.

Fraternally,
Harry W. Cender
Supplies Committee Chairperson

FMLA

FMLA Committee Chairperson, Judith Koonce

Brothers and Sisters,

I hope that you and your families had a great Memorial Day!

As we begin our Summer Season please remember to submit your application for Paid Family Leave with a least (30) thirty days' notice where practical or as soon as possible.

Please reach out to me with any questions and concerns.

Happy Summer Cleaning!!

Email: FMLAssistance@local891.com

HOSPITALIZATION

Kevin Troy, Hospitalization Committee Chairperson

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Medicare Part B Reimbursement

The 2022 Medicare Part B reimbursements were issued in April. Medicare-eligible retirees should check their bank account statement (or the mail if you are receiving a physical check). The standard Medicare Part B amount for 2022 is $170.10 per month for a total of $2,041.20.
If you have already submitted your Medicare Part A & B card to the Health Benefits Program, this payment is automatic, and you will receive it annually. You only need to fill out this form one time, not every year.

The Aetna Medicare Advantage PPO

If you are a Medicare eligible retiree and you do not want to be automatically enrolled, you will need to opt out of the plan between May 1, 2023, and June 30, 2023. If you opt out of the plan and waive City coverage and you live in the NYC surrounding area, your only option through the City of New York is the HIP VIP Premier Medicare plan. To opt into this plan, visit the NYC Office of Labor Relations (OLR) website at NYC.gov/hbp to complete the Retiree Special Enrollment/Waiver Form.

If you live outside of the NYC surrounding area, and you opt out and waive City coverage, there are no other options available through the City of New York health benefits. If you opt out and waive City coverage, you will be eligible to enroll during the City's Annual Retiree Transfer Period that occurs every November. You can enroll outside of the Annual Retiree Transfer period if you have a qualifying event or use your once-in-a-lifetime option. If you opt out of the City of New York health benefits, you will NOT be eligible for the Part B premium reimbursement and/or IRMAA.

If anyone has questions or concerns, please feel to contact me at hospitalization@local891.com.

I hope everyone has a wonderful summer and gets to spend much needed time with their loved ones!

Fraternally,

Kevin Troy
Hospitalization Committee Chairperson

NYC CENTRAL COUNCIL DELEGATE

NYC Central Council Committee Co-Chairperson, Judith Koonce

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I hope that everyone had a great Memorial Day.

The first Central Labor Council's in person meeting after COVID, was held on May 18th. Nominations of officers and members of the Executive Board were made. As there were no more nominations than offices to fill, elections took place by acclamation. Delegates approved 4th terms for President Vincent Alvarez and Secretary-Treasurer Janella T. Hinds, and also elected 40 members to the CLC's Executive Board.

As we observe Juneteenth let us reflect on our freedom in this great country. Juneteenth for the year 2023 is celebrated/ observed on Monday, June 19. Juneteenth is observed on June 19 each year commemorating the emancipation of the enslaved African Americans back in 1865. President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law on June
17, 2021.

SAVE THE DATE

Labor Day Parade 2023

New York City's annual Labor Day Parade & March up Fifth Avenue will take place this year on Saturday September 9th, 2023.

We are looking forward to a huge turnout this year of both our old and new members. Unity is strength!

Have a safe and healthy summer.

In Solidarity!
Judith Koonce
Source nycclc.org <http://nycclc.org>

LEGISLATIVE

Submitted by CE William P. Carroll, K564/437.

William P. Carroll is a regular contributor to the gauge, which includes last month's (**Biden Stands with the IUOE**) and frequently assist the legislative team in Albany for member rights.

Tier 6 Reform—
It starts with you.

It has been stated at recent union meetings that Tier 6 reform is essential. Tier 6 members contribute more per year than their peers, 6% for every employee earning above $100,000. Tier 6 employees contribute more for their entire careers overall for less returned benefits compared to Tier 1, 2, 3, and 4 plan participants. Tier 5 did not impact city workers. This is not a part of our collectively bargained contract—the state dictates the pension plan.

Each and every Local 891 member needs to advocate for themselves and for their fellow pensioners at both the local and state level. Albany must reform Tier 6.

Enhancing Tier 6 makes retirement more feasible. Cost of living increases have impacted everyone's wallet. Reforms to the pension plan will offset some of these increases.

The plurality of Local 891 members currently participates in a Tier 6 pension plan. Inaction will cost members the opportunity for better benefits and a more comfortable retirement.

Treasurer Richard Gorgoglione and Recording Secretary Francis Byrne at the IUOE Convention with IUOE General President James T Callahan

Carl Heastie, NYS Assembly Speaker and Daniel Danvers, 891 legislative committee member at an event

Labor in the News

FOLLOWING HISTORIC 3-DAY STRIKE, QUEENS DOCTORS WIN PARITY

The approximately 165 doctors employed by Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai ("Mount Sinai") at Elmhurst Hospital this week ended their unfair labor practice strike after 3 days, with the doctors saying that Mount Sinai finally bargained in good faith and made movement that was sufficient for them to reach a tentative agreement after almost a year of negotiations.

PARK SLOPE BARNES & NOBLE WORKERS FILE FOR UNION WITH RWDSU

Barnes & Noble workers at the Park Slope, Brooklyn store yesterday filed for their union election with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) seeking representation with the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union (RWDSU). This comes just days after workers at the Barnes & Noble College Booksellers store on the Rutgers University campus won their union election unanimously with RWDSU. The petition also swiftly follows that of the Union Square Flagship store filing for their union election with RWDSU; their election is set for Wednesday, June 7.

TEACHERS RALLY IN ALL FIVE BOROUGHS FOR A FAIR CONTRACT

UFT members are currently working under an expired contract. A fair contract would provide a fair wage increase to educators; allow more time to support students with less time spent on unnecessary tasks; ensure a safe school environment; and grant educators adequate prep time, among other important working-condition improvements.

For these stories and other current labor related news, please visit the NY Central Labor Council website at www.nyclc.org.

BLOOD BANK

Blood Bank Committee Chairperson, Evan Manca

Thank you, 891 members, for coming out at all locations to participate in donating. Your generous gift of life saving blood is greatly appreciated. Your ongoing participation has made this drive a great success

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Attend the monthly general membership meeting for the latest information and let your voices be heard.

You miss out on important information when you miss the Membership Meeting

The Gauge

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

Borough Chairpersons

Bronx	**Michael King**	**ext. 220**
Brooklyn	**Andrew Foti**	**ext. 221**
Manhattan	**John Brennan**	**ext. 222**
Queens	**Kevin Fitzgerald**	**ext. 223**
Staten Island	**Nicholas Souto**	**ext. 224**

Committee Chairpersons

Children's Party	**Peter Maddaloni**	**ext. 249**
Blood Bank	**Evan Manca**	**ext. 250**
Compensation Ins.	**Stephen Hourihan**	**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**
FMLA	**Judith Koonce**	**ext. 278**
Good & Welfare	**Theresa DiCristi**	**ext. 258**
Custodial Helpers	**Marvin Rodriquez**	**ext. 259**
Grievances	**John Maderich**	**ext. 260**
Hospitalization	**Kevin Troy**	**ext. 261**
Indoctrination	**Dwight Woodley**	**ext. 262**
Legislative Chair	**Michael Kelly**	**ext. 263**
Membership	**Kieran McKivergan**	**ext. 264**
Membership Assistance	**Theresa DiCristi**	**ext. 258**
Occupational Health & Safety	**Joanne O'Neill**	**ext. 266**
Payroll & Permits	**Philip Navetta**	**ext. 267**
Pension	**Nicholas Souto**	**ext. 224**
Rating & Transfer	**Robert Calamia**	**ext. 269**
Store Keeper	**Stevo Pepdjonovic**	**ext. 270**
Supplies	**Harry Cender**	**ext. 271**
Temp Care Assign	**Joseph Sanfilippo**	**ext. 272**
Webmaster	**Dan Morgan**	**ext. 274**
NYC Central Council Delegate	**Judith Koonce**	**ext. 275**
NYC Central Council Delegate	**Richard Gorgoglione**	**ext. 276**