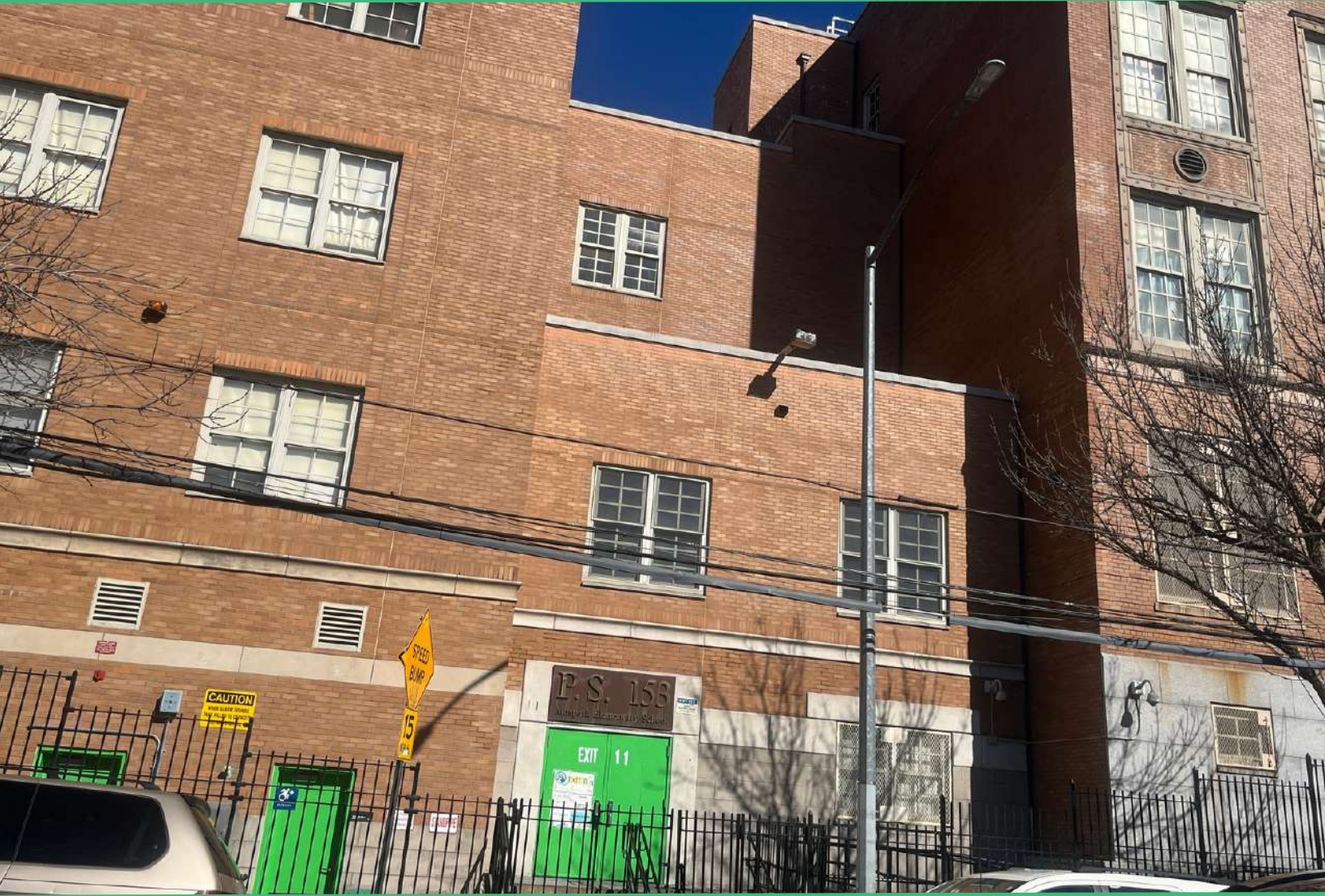




**March 2024**

# ***The Gauge***

**Local 891 - AFL-CIO**



## **General Membership Meeting**

The Next General Membership will be on March 7th, 2024 at M167 Robert Wagner Middle School  
220 East 76th Street  
Between 2nd & 3rd Avenues  
in Manhattan

## **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.

## **Variable Rate**

Variable Rate Unit Value for February 2024: 145.531

## **Direct Deposit**

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

# ***Business Manager's Report***



Brothers and Sisters,

Congratulations to all of you who were awarded a transfer on the last list, including step-ups who were able to select their first Level II assignment. Hopefully, going forward the new electronic process will go quicker and we will receive the contractually required number of lists each year. Please be aware that if your Principal rating is missing it will delay the process for everyone as DSF scrambles to get the Principal to complete the missing rating.

The top five standings that were distributed were somewhat confusing and misleading. Candidates who were awarded their selection continued to appear in the rankings of schools which they put in as their later choices. The list showed CEs coming in second and third, etc to the winners, when in fact the winner would not have beaten those CEs for that assignment. You can go back and look at the top five list by [clicking here](#). You will find assignments that were awarded to a Level I CE with a refrigeration license and Level II CEs coming in below them, that is not possible. DSF is working to present the results in a more logical way. You should read the rating and transfer section of our contract by clicking here to familiarize yourself with the rules. Keep in mind there are only two titles, Level I CE and Level II CE. A Level I with a refrigeration license is not a title.

Once again DSF has allowed NYCSSS to change the rules and process for fill-in requests without prior notice to Local 891. Some members find the list of available candidates useful, others do not. Local 891's position is that you should decide whether or not to call candidates and if you choose not to call candidates there needs to be a simple process for requesting fill-in workers.

I hope everyone who attend our 100 Anniversary event in February had a great time. We are working with the photographer to make digital copies of all the photos taken available for download. We will notify you as soon as they are available.

Fraternally, Robert

Speaker of the New York State Assembly  
Carl Heastie and Local 891 Business  
Manager Robert Troeller discuss issues  
important to the members of 891



# ***Electronic Communications***

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February 2nd - Local 891 95th Annual Reception Journal  
February 2nd - Vacancy / Transfer List Results  
February 8th - Supplies  
February 9th - Contractor Permits Questions  
February 9th - NYCSSS Fill In Process  
February 13th - ITEC Training Schedule 2024  
February 14th - Top 5 Transfer Standings Circular #3 2023/24  
February 22nd - Next Certified Pool Operator Course  
February 28th - Passing of Retired Member William Stockhausen  
February 28h - Passing of Retired Member Anthony Pantelides  
February 29th - CUNY Consultation

## ***Vice President's Corner***

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To avoid being brought to Vernon Boulevard for a Directors Conference and issued an official letter of complaint, please ensure that all logs, especially the Fire Safety Log and Boiler Log are being maintained, are up to date and are correct. Please make sure that your Universal Waste is in compliance and that your oil fill ports & oil tanks are labeled properly. Please assure that eye wash stations and emergency showers have inspection tags on them and are being tested and recorded weekly. Monthly inspection of Sprinkler and Standpipe System are tagged and logged. HVAC portal is updated and kept current. Lead exceedance fixtures are turned off and tagged.

These are all life safety issues that the Division of School Facilities feels warrants a letter of complaint if found out of compliance. Please stay out of harms way and make sure all these items receive the attention they deserve.

If you have any questions or require any assistance with anything I have mentioned above, please feel free to reach out to me directly.

Andrew W. Samberg

# **PENSION**

Frank Sirabella, Pension Committee Chairperson

If you are currently making contributions to the BERS Roth TDA, please be aware that the city is working on modifying the way it is reflected on your paystub. Currently its reflected as "Blank Sub Type ID. " In the interim, you can view your year to date contributions and goal amount in the MSS portal.

Retirement Seminars have been scheduled for April 2nd and April 4th at the union hall. There was an overwhelming response, as seats filled up in a very short period of time with 25 members per session. Please remember to book out personal business if you are attending the seminar.

Respectfully,  
Frank Sirabella  
Pension Committee Chair  
Local 891 IUOE  
Pension@local891.com

## **CUSTODIAL HELPER**

Marvin Rodriguez, Custodial Helper Committee

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

When it comes to theft, whether it's time or something fiscal, it should be documented and reported to SCI. After that the employee should be written up using a DAF and termination should be checked off. DO NOT try and offer any deals with said employee (like if you resign, I won't send it in).

SCI (Special Commissioner of Investigation). (212) 510-1500, Email intake@nycsci.org.

When you have Multiple DAF, please send them in separately, also Don't hold on to DAFs for months on in if you expect action from NYCSSS.

If a religious accommodation is requested by an employee, inform them that they have to request it officially through NYCSSS, you also can email NYCSSS.

I hope you all have a good and safe year

Marvin Rodriguez C.H.C.

# ***MEMBERSHIP ASSISTANCE***

Theresa DiCristi, Good and Welfare Committee Chairperson

Brothers and Sisters,

In the month of March we have "National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week" 3/18 - 3/24.

This week is geared towards Teens to open up conversations about substance abuse and alcoholism. Too often as parents we think "not my kid" but recent statistics show that - "62% of teens in 12th grade have abused alcohol" and "50% of teens have misused drugs at least once".

Open communication is always key and there are always resources should you need them.

Reach out anytime!!

Be well!  
Theresa

## ***GOOD AND WELFARE***

Theresa DiCristi, Good and Welfare Committee Chairperson

Brothers and Sisters -

The Widow's Care for William Magsamen (Q173) continues. Thank you to Kevin Fitzgerald for arranging coverage.

Donations for his Widow and family are still being accepted. You can send payment made out to "Local 891 Beneficiary Fund" to the Union office at the Navy Yard. Or you can send it electronically by [clicking here](#)

The Beneficiary Fund matches each donation dollar for dollar.  
Thank you for your continued support, it is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,  
Theresa

# **SUPPLY**

Harry Cender, Supply Committee Chairperson

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We all knew this was coming, and with each passing day, additional CEs are running out of funding. The only thing we can do now is request additional funds. DSF has been trying to acquire additional funding from the city for this fiscal year. But currently, there is no scheduled allocation drop until the next fiscal year's budget. Fiscal year 2025 in July.

The brothers and sisters of 891 have made this failing system work for years, but this time, there is nothing more we can do! It's now up to DSF/DOE and the City to make it work.

When the time comes that you need to request additional funds, you first must have exhausted all the building allocations, then notify your DDF before you run low on supplies and request additional funding.

Inform your DDF of the following information:

- \*The amount of product you have on hand.
- \*Its daily usage and the estimated date you will run out of supplies.
- \*The amount of product needed to carry you over.

The amount of product you need will determine the amount of additional funding you request. Remember to CC your Borough Chairman and Supplies@Local891.com.

The link below is a template letter that you can use.

<https://files.constantcontact.com/4088f45b501/6cd3f339-aec3-4f5a-ba95-114b50b6e4c7.pdf?rdr=true>.

If you need to inquire about a refund, email NYCCustodial@sdi.com and TJarrett6@schools.nyc.gov

To report late deliveries, pricing errors, shortages, or complaints, members must email their concerns to NYCCustodial@sdi.com and your DDF. Additionally, CEs should copy their Borough Chairman and DSFsupplies@schools.nyc.gov for monitoring purposes only.

Remember always to spend their funds wisely and with good judgment.

Fraternally,

Harry W. Cender

# **LEGISLATIVE**

Michael Kelly, Legislative Committee Chairperson

On Tuesday, February 6th, 2024 the legislative committee and other 891 officials attended the NYS Public Employee Conference (PEC) Breakfast in Albany.

In attendance were over 80 other unions with similar agendas. There were numerous speakers from leaders of the State. Governor Kathy Hochul opened the conference and spoke on the need to fix Tier 6, as did all the speakers who followed.

Tier 6 enhancement was the prominent point of discussion for the PEC conference this year! Tier or pension equity is the top legislative concern not only for NYS PEC but also for Local 891. Retention of civil servant employees has become a statewide issue. There are more than 12,000 vacant civil servant positions statewide, this number does not incorporate the vacancies in the city. Any member hired after mid-April 2012 faces the inequity of Tier 6. Members have to contribute more, work more years, and the percentage of total salary pensioned by year of service is valued less than Tiers 1-4.

Union sisters and brothers who work under the same title deserve to have equal retirement benefits. With more than 50% of Local 891 members in tier 6 it is a concern for the present and the future. NY State Comptroller Thomas Dinapoli expressed his fiscal expertise on the current state of NY state pension system being over 91% funded; this incorporates fiscal downturns in the recent past, he said "this is good time for modest enhancements." Sister states such as Pennsylvania have poorly managed their pension system resulting in a hybrid pension system (being both defined and 401K based which swings with the markets). Stability in retirement is key for many members' peace of mind, and decision on what age to retire.

Modest enhancements may be practical, this is not the feeling of Local 891, the committee will always advocate for the greatest enhancements for all of its members. The NY State pension system currently pays out 1.3 billion dollars of benefits each month. This is an enormous number, yet for this benefit to continue in such a way the members of today and the future members need to be equally rewarded for their hard work and dedication to the people of NY.

Every member's voice continues to be our biggest asset, elected officials need to know where Local 891 stands. Reforms and equity have to happen, and the pressure on state representatives to make change is essential today not tomorrow. Eleven years have passed since tier 6 was implemented. The effect of this tier is being felt by all New Yorkers today.

Local 891 members who are in tier 6 should be aware that the union is at the forefront in seeking reform on yours and future members behalf.

NY State Senator takes a selfie with Gauge Editor Dan Danvers, Legislative Committee Chairperson Michael Kelly, Vice President Andrew Samberg, and Treasurer Kieran McKivergan



**Legislative Committee:** Member, William Carroll; Chairperson, Michael Kelly; Member, Daniel Danvers



# **FMLA**

Judith Koonce, FMLA Committee Chairperson

Brothers and Sisters:

Members who work a second job may continue to do so if they are using Paid Family Leave. Members cannot apply for Paid family Leave to take care of themselves. Paid Family Leave can only be used to take care of a qualified family member.

However, members who work a second job may not continue to do so if they are using Unpaid Family Leave. Unpaid Family Leave will only be granted to a member for their own health conditions/circumstances.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.  
My contact information is on the back of the Gauge.

In Unity,  
Judith

## ***NYC CENTRAL COUNCIL DELEGATE***

Judith Koonce/Richard Gorgoglione, Delegates

Brothers and Sisters:

An in-person orientation was held for fifteen new delegates to the New York Central Labor Council on February 15, 2024 at their offices located at 350 West 31st, New York City. The regular monthly meeting followed on zoom.

Highlights of the meeting were: The 2026 World Cup Games. A total of six games will be played in New York and New Jersey. NYC CLC is determined to hold the International Association Football Federation, FIFA, accountable to hire union labor in every aspect of the event's planning and execution.

The month of March is being celebrated as National Women' History Month. Legislation S.1792/A4349 was signed by Governor Hochul and will commemorate March 8th as International Women's Day. This day will recognize the adversity women have faced and celebrate the valiant fight for equality.

On Monday, March 25, Time TBA: the commemoration ceremony of the 113th anniversary of the 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire, will be held at Washington Place and Green Street in Manhattan. This tragedy is one of the pivotal events in US history and a turning point in labor's struggle to achieve fair wages, dignity at work, and safe working conditions. Outrage at the deaths of 146 mostly young female immigrants inspired the union movement and helped to institute worker protections and fire safety laws.

In Unity  
Judith



# ***In Memoriam***

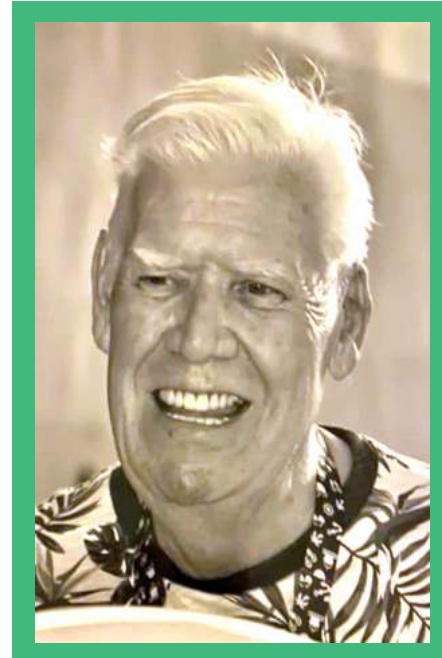
William Stockhausen (retired)

Condolences to:

Angela Stockhausen (spouse)

126-44 Woodmill Drive

Palm Beach, FL 33418



Anthony Pantelides (retired)

Condolences to:

Cathy Pantelides (Spouse)

156 Beebe Road

Mineola, NY 11501



# The Gauge

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

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Manhattan	John Brennan	ext. 222
Queens	Kevin Fitzgerald	ext. 223
Staten Island	Nicholas Souto	ext. 224

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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
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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	Lionel Santiago	ext. 266
Payroll & Permits	Philip Navetta	ext. 267
Pension	Frank Sirabella	ext. 268
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

**Robert J. Troeller**  
**Business Manager / President**

**Andrew W. Samberg**  
**Vice President**

**Francis J. Byrne**  
**Recording Corresponding Secretary**

**Richard A. Gorgoglione**  
**Financial Secretary**

**Kieran M. McKivergan**  
**Treasurer**

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