April 2024

THE GAUGE

Local 891 - AFL-CIO

VARIABLE RATE

Variable Rate Unit Value
for March 2024: 152.039

DIRECT DEPOSIT

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

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

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

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.

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.

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

I'm excited to announce that the annual 891 picnic is just around the corner! Mark your calendars for Saturday June 15, 2024, as we gather for a day of fun, relaxation, and camaraderie with our brothers, sisters and extended family. Last year we had a wonderful turnout on a beautiful day. We will have unlimited drinks, unlimited food, and activities for all ages at the wonderful Plattdeutsch Park. Each member, both active and retired, can attend for free with one guest. Guests under 21 are also welcomed at no cost to members. You are also welcome to bring guests 21 and older at the low cost of $50 per person. You can click here to access the flyer for this year's picnic, and you can click here to access the registration form. We hope to see all of you there!

The executive board votes to subsidize the costs of our annual reception and our annual picnic. We do this because we want to encourage our members to attend these events without it being a significant expense to the members. We want you all to be able to be as involved as possible. We want your voices to be heard. We encourage you to attend as many union events as you can, such as the general membership meetings, the Labor Day parade, the annual reception and picnic, and your various borough events.

As we continue to plan future events, I want to emphasize the importance of RSVPing in a timely manner. As I stated, the union subsidizes the costs of these events. Meaning if you register and then cancel, it costs the union money because the cost per person is higher than any cost you are being asked to pay. Please remember that failing to RSVP or showing up without confirming your attendance can result in unnecessary expenses for the Union. When we overestimate attendance, it leads to wasted resources and increased costs.

Speaking of attending union events, I want to thank everyone who came to the General Membership Meeting for April, held at Intermediate School M167, and stayed despite the issues with the parking and our inability to use the auditorium. Please attend future meetings if you can and make sure your concerns and perspective are being shared with us.

VICE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Please familiarize yourself with Chancellors Regulations C105, specifically Section 9 regarding procedure in notification of arrest.

C-105 2-11-2003 Final remediated_WCAG2.0 (nyc.gov)

If you are arrested, even out of State, you must notify the Office of Personnel Investigations in writing via email at OPIarrestnotification@schools.nyc.gov . Please cc your Borough Director, Deputy Director, and Director of Field Operations Mr. Phil Napolitano at Pnapolitano2@schools.nyc.gov

You must also call OPI at 718.935.2666.

Although this has been published before, it bears repeating.
Please feel free to call or email me if you have any questions regarding the subject matter.

Andrew W. Samberg
Vice President

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

March 6th - Passing of Tomiann Colosi
March 6th - Transfer List Coming Soon
March 7th - Seniority Lists
March 12th - Passing of Elise Zincon Zitolo
March 15th - Upcoming Holidays
March 18th - Education & Training Schedule
March 18th - CPS Optical Savings Spring Promotion!
March 19th - DH Cook Address Change
March 25th - Passing of Dorina Galdau
April 2nd - Asbestos Screening

Local 891 Picnic

& June Monthly General Membership Meeting

June 15th
12:30PM - 4:30PM

Plattduetsche Park
1132 Hempstead Turnpike,
Franklin Square, NY 11010

Buses Available Leaving From:

Staten Island

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

Brooklyn

P371
355 37th Street
Brooklyn, NY

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

Great Food!
Drinks!
Activities for all ages!!

SUPPLY

HARRY CENDER, SUPPLY COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

By now most, if not, all of you should have received additional supply funding for FY 24. If you have not, email your DDF immediately and inform them. Cc your Borough Chairman and Supplies@Local891.com.

As a reminder, Members must certify their orders as the items arrive or after five business days. Items not received require follow-up by the CE until the order is either satisfied or canceled. Under no circumstances should you ever certify that an item has been received If it was not delivered.

With the end of the fiscal year rapidly approaching, here are a few reminders.

The FY 24 procurement cut-off dates are as follows:
- May 17, 2024: Equipment repairs
- May 31, 2024: Non-list (aka non-cat)
- May 31, 2024: Catalog items in FAMIS

Items that cannot be delivered by June 30 will be canceled, and the funds will be returned to the DSF. Unspent balances will not roll over to the following fiscal year.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me at Supplies@Local891.com.

Remember always to spend their funds wisely and with good judgment.
Fraternally,
Harry W. Cender
Supplies Committee Chairperson

EDUCATION

FRANK BYRNE, EDUCATION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

Local 891 Member,

For any member that has been thinking about college courses but are not sure where to go, or just want more information, this program may be helpful. Many of you were not able to make the information session with representatives from CUNY here at Local 891. CUNY has made an information session available via zoom on Thursday, April 25th from 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY

LIONEL SANTIAGO, OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

We are planning our next Asbestos Screening for Saturday, June 1, 2024.

Please see the attached Asbestos Screening Form. If you are interested, then please fill out an Asbestos Screening Request Form and submit it to DSF.

Email a copy to Lionel Santiago at Lsantiago247.5@gmail.com.

For any members who have 10+ years combined with 32BJ, Local 94, and Local 891, you are also eligible for the BLL Test (Blood Lead Level). You may also receive a flu shot.

When Lionel Santiago receives your request form, he will e-mail you more details (appointment time, forms to fill out and bring with you). Take advantage of these exams.

LEGISLATIVE

MICHAEL KELLEY, LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

AGENDA: TIER 6 REFORM

Legislative Committee members, William X. Carroll, left and Daniel Danvers, Right, attended a fund-raising event in Albany hosted by NYS Comptroller, Thomas Dinapoli (3rd from left). The above report was previewed to us by NYSPEC Chairman, Peter Meringolo (2nd from left).

Dear Board of Directors,

In addition to our ongoing meetings with the Governors staff, Senate Majority Leader, Speaker of the Assembly, Assembly Chair of Governmental Employees and Senate Chair of Civil Service and Pensions, we continue to walk the halls during every session meeting with other key legislators to stress the importance of having their support. We point out that NYSPEC's number one priority is Tier /Pension Equity as it is highlighted in our Legislative booklet.

A comprehensive package of terms serving to equalize the pension benefits impacting public employees must be attained in the 2024 state legislative session. The modifications that have been made to public employee pensions have created a climate within which recruitment and retention of qualified individuals is exacerbated to unprecedented levels. We want them to also put pressure on their leaders to attain tier enhancements in the budget being negotiated now.

I believe the more pressure we can put on our legislators, the better the chance we will have of finally achieving some tier enhancements. With that in mind, I encourage you to ask your members to reach out to their local Assembly members and Senators to stress importance of having their support and that the time is now to achieve some long overdue tier enhancements.

In Unity
Peter D. Meringolo
NYSPEC
Chairman

LEGISLATIVE

MICHAEL KELLY, LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

Business Manager/President, Robert J. Troeller, discuss the issues with NYS Comptroller, Thomas Dinapoli in Albany at the S.E.I.U Legislative Conference.

In attendance at the S.E.I.U Legislative conference, March 26 & 27, 2024 in Albany were: Legislative Committee member, Daniel Danvers; Legislative Committee Chairperson, Michael Kelly; 891 Business Manager/President, Robert J. Troeller; 89's Vice President, Andrew Samberg; 891's Treasurer and Entertainment Committee Chairperson, Kieran McKivergan.

Speaker of the House, Andrea Stewart Cousins with Business Manager/President, Robert J. Troeller at the S.E.I.U Legislative Conference.

To the right is an editorial from a recent Newsday about Tier 6 reform. We wanted to share this article because it is a great example of the rhetoric used to denounce the reform. We believe anyone doing the grueling work for the public sector, which benefits all of society, deserves to do their job knowing they'll be able to retire without fear. We demand Tier Equity Now!

EDITORIAL

Say no to Tier 6 pension reform

■ **MEMBERS OF THE EDITORIAL BOARD** are experienced journalists who offer reasoned opinions, based on facts, to encourage informed debate about the issues facing our community.

One under-the-radar budget battle in Albany pits public employees against the rest of the state's taxpayers. It's an unfair fight, as powerful unions and lawmakers of both major parties are supporting the public workers' desire to make generous pension plans even more generous.

Only a few advocates are fighting for taxpayers.

The "fix" lawmakers are proposing applies to Tier 6 — the most recent retirement deal established for those who joined public payrolls on or after April 1, 2012. More than half of New York's public workforce now sits in Tier 6. The change would calculate their pensions based on an average salary earned in their last three years of work, rather than the current five years. Since employees often earn the most in those final years, this change would hike nearly every Tier 6 employee's pension — and would retroactively increase payouts for those who've retired in the last two years.

That would hike pension costs for public employers, including local and state governments, schools, police departments and more. The Empire Center for Public Policy, a fiscally conservative think tank in Albany, estimates it would saddle taxpayers with $4 billion in new debt, about half affecting New York City. Proponents of the legislation estimate the cost to local and state governments in 2025 alone could total $196.3 million statewide.

NEWSDAY / THOMAS A. FERRARA

The State Legislature, above, in Albany and Gov. Kathy Hochul should reject Tier 6 pension reforms.

State legislators — including several local Republicans — claim the change would encourage the recruitment and retention of public employees, suggesting Tier 6 is the main reason employees are leaving the public sector. But there are other factors at work. And it's unlikely that many public workers would leave a well-paid gig with a good pension for a private sector job with no pension just because their public pensions are slightly thinner than those who entered the system earlier.

Local governments — particularly school districts already complaining of tight budgets — certainly won't be able to hire more or increase wages if their pension contributions soar. And paying more taxes for increased benefits would make Long Island even more unaffordable.

The state teachers' union says changing Tier 6 is about "justice and dignity in retirement," "solidarity and fairness" and "unity and power." On the State Senate floor last week, Long Island Republican Sens. Alexis Weik, Dean Murray and Jack Martins backed the change, with Weik suggesting Tier 6 was "bad public policy" and Murray saying the state should either "fix it or nix it."

No one mentioned the word "taxpayer."

A Republican-controlled State Senate helped make Tier 6 a reality 12 years ago. Now, it seems the party has abandoned the posture of fiscal conservatism upon which Long Island's taxpayers have depended.

The State Legislature and Gov. Kathy Hochul should remember the millions of taxpayers, and thousands of government entities, that lack the power but will bear the brunt. They should "nix" any effort to "fix" Tier 6.

FMLA

JUDITH KOONCE, FMLA COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

Brothers and Sisters,

If you have been approved for Paid Family Leave kindly note the following information:

On the days that you are going out on PAF, please call the Bookout line at the Division of School Facilities (Borough Office) and state that you will be using Paid Family Leave. Also, contact Absolve Absence Solutions at 800-401-2641 and inform them of the day/s that you will be using.

Please have your employee ID number when you call. Failure to notify Absolve may result in you not getting paid by the Agency for that day and you may be asked to use a vacation day by DSF.

Brothers and Sisters, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions/concerns.

In Unity,
Judith Koonce

NYC CENTRAL COUNCIL DELIGATE

JUDITH KOONCE/RICHARD GORGOGLIONE, NYC CCD COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS

Brothers and Sisters,

On March 25, 1911, 146 workers—mostly young, immigrant women—were killed in a horrific fire at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory at Washington Place and Greene Street in lower Manhattan. Inadequate fire escapes, locked doors, and an overall disregard for worker safety resulted in tragedy.

On Monday ,3/35/24, the AFL-CIO, Workers United, New. York City Central Labor Council, SEIU, and the Remember the Triangle Fire Coalition gathered to celebrate the 113th Anniversary of the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire.

During the event, family members and I read the names of workers who perished during the blaze, and flowers were laid at the site of the fire while a bell tolls. A fire truck ladder was be raised to the 6th floor of the building, the highest point it could reach in 1911, although the fire
engulfed the 8th, 9th, and 10th floors.

This commemoration educates rank and file members, activists, students, and our community allies about workplace safety, collective bargaining rights, and the importance of standing together to protect workers' safety.

Article credit: New York Central Labor Council.

Judith Koonce

MEMBERSHIP ASSISTANCE

THERESA DICRISTI, MEMBERSHIP ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

Brothers and Sisters,

April is National Stress Awareness Month. Dealing with day to day issues on the job and at home can cause undue stress and anxiety. Too much can create health issues and may lead to depression or substance abuse. I've attached a fact sheet "I'm so Stressed Out" you can read it by clicking here. This talks about stress and anxiety and how to cope with them. And also "Stress Less for a Healthier Heart" you can read it by clicking here. This talks about how stress effects the body and lists ways to deal with it including meditation.

Help is always a phone call away. You can call me anytime (631)816-3189. Even if it's just to chat!

Happy Spring!
Be Well!
Theresa

CUSTODIAL HELPER

MARVIN RODRIGUEZ, CUSTODIAL HELPER COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

Dear Brothers and sisters

Please keep these things in mind:

1- When an employee is out on FMLA, Disability or Worker's Comp, said employee cannot return to work until they have been cleared by NYCSSS to return.

2- If you have multiple DAF's and the employee is not around, you can send it in with just your signature and the witness signature and then inform NYCSSS that you will hand it to the employee when they come in.
You can also send in a DAF with just your signature while you wait to get the employee's signature. As long as you let NYCSSS know that you will be sending in that DAF as soon as you get the employee's signature.

Any questions please reach out to me or Theresa

Marvin Rodriguez C.H.C.C

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Local 891's Hospitalization Committee Chairperson, Kevin Troy, on being New York Department of Education's Emerald Society's 2024 Irish Custodian of the year. The evening was shared by Kevin's family and fellow co-workers, some of whom are past honorees.

Local 891 Business Manager Robert Troeller with CSA President Henry Rubio

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

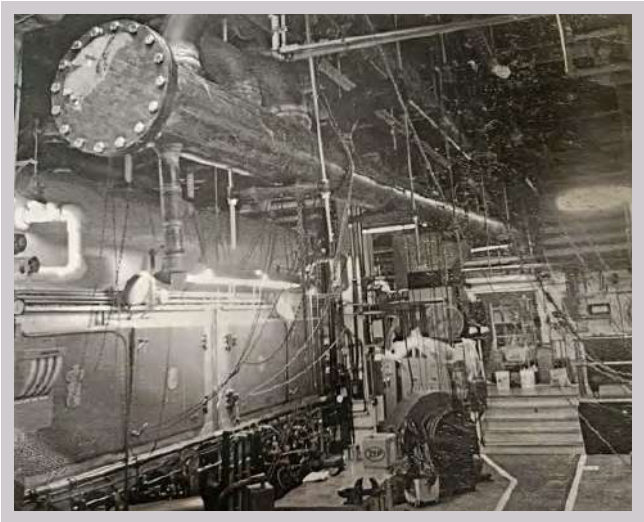
The March 7th, general membership meeting was back in Manhattan at I.S. 167 after the Borough-by-Borough location schedule. Thank you for attending and let your voices be heard!

THE PLANT

Site: Jamaica High School Q470
CE: Daniel Morgan
FN: Eric Daus, John Bittle

Quick Facts

Once a high pressure and coal fired plant, it was converted to low pressure and now runs on gas. This historic plant is impeccably maintained and operated by the CE and his crew. Upon entering the very detailed boiler room, evidence of the past is mixed with the technology of the present.



If you would like your plant to be featured here, please contact editor@local891.com.

Local 891
Retirees of 2023

Dear Newly Retired Members,

Congratulations to all of you on your recent retirement!

President Troeller and the entire membership would like to thank you for your many years of hard work and devotion to your job.

Now is the time for you to relax. You may do so now with the knowledge that your continued efforts during your time with Local 891 made a real difference!

Thank you all! Have a wonderful retirement!

Fraternally,
Kieran McKivergan
Membership Committee Chairperson

January

Stephen Ready - January 19th
Matthew Jordan - January 22nd

February

Julio Cuadra - February 4th
John Sullivan - February 16th
Kevin McDonnell - February 18th
Robert Winterroth - February 19th

March

Keith Brand - March 5th
Vincent McParland - March 11th
Joseph Reilly - March 12th

April

Sean Casey - April 1st
Richard Pedersen - April 16th
Rabinda Pathania - April 16th
Thomas Caputo - April 25th
Trevor Rampersad - April 25th

May

Kenneth Robare - May 4th
Richard Fasulo - May 13th
Thomas O'Reilly - May 16th

June

Jeffrey Bilek - June 4th
James Favilla - June 9th
Peter Grasso - June 26th

July

Jorge Corniel - July 9th
William Post - July 23rd
Keith Hennin - July 27th

August

Thomas Logan - August 5th
Stephen Scotto - August 6th
Joseph Ginex - August 9th
Patrick O'Donoghue - August 13th
Nicos Kodjapashis - August 13th
Anibal Maldonado - August 21st
Joseph Fahey - August 25th

September

Kevin Gibson - September 15th

October

Michael Morales - October 28th
Joanne O'Neill - October 29th
Elio Canto - October 30th

November

James Carbonaro - November 1st
Anthony Pantelides - November 13th
Salvatore Scalice - November 21st

December

Vincent Peters - December 2nd
Joseph Schoendorf - December 11th
Mario Diminich - December 18th

In Memoriam

Thomas Leecock
Retired CE, K191
Condolences to:
Cindie Rovank (Daughter)
588 Bell Williams Road
Burgaw, NC 28425

THE GAUGE

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
I.U.O.E LOCAL 891
Brooklyn Navy Yard, 63 Flushing Avenue
Building 292, Suite 401
Brooklyn, NY 11205
www.Local891.com
1-888-891-2226 (Outside NY area only)
Ph: (718) 455-9731 Fx: (718) 455-9733

ROBERT J. TROELLER
BUSINESS MANAGER / PRESIDENT

ANDREW W. SAMBERG
VICE PRESIDENT

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FINANCIAL SECRETARY

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WELFARE & ANNUITY FUNDS

Richard A. Gorgoglione
Chairperson of Trustees
63 Flushing Ave. Building 292 – Suite 401
Brooklyn, NY 11205
Ph: (718) 455-9731 Ext. 102
Fx: (718) 488-7122

Legal Services (718) 895-7160

Daniel H. Cook Associates
Welfare forms – eye care vouchers – claims information
1040 Ave of the Americas, Flr. 24
New York, NY 10018-3726
(212) 505-5050

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

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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
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Indoctrination	Dwight Woodley	ext. 262
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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