



THE GAUGE

MAY 2024

LOCAL 891 - AFL-CIO



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Local 891 Picnic on June 15th will serve as our next General Membership Meeting

VARIABLE RATE

Variable Rate Unit Value
for April 2024: \$156.303

THE PLANT

The plant is a new feature of The Gauge which will profile a school's heating/cooling/ventilation system. It could be historic, state of the art, or just unique. If you believe your plant fits the bill, please contact editor@local891.

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,

Our Annual Picnic is just around the corner. We will have unlimited food and drinks, plenty of activities for all ages at the wonderful Plattdeutsch Park. Each member, both active and retired, can attend for free along 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 you can make it because it will surely be a wonderful time! They have a large indoor space if the weather is bad.

Hopefully NYCSSS will up their game this summer and provide fill-ins to the extent they are supposed to rather than dropping the ball as we've all become accustomed to. Although positive improvements have been made to Tier 6, many more significant changes must be made. We want tier equity! The state legislature passed a bill to change Tier 6 retirement benefit calculations to an average of your final 3 years rather than your final 5 years. We will not stop working towards ensuring that all our Tier 6 benefits mirror Tier 4. This will not happen over night the improvements are costly. Also, our lawsuit arguing that TC's should be pensionable is still ongoing.

Important Update

The Local 891 Beneficiary Fund is pleased to announce a new benefit for Active Members of Local 891. Hopefully, it is a benefit none of you will ever need. Going forward, if an Active member dies prior to retirement, the beneficiary listed on your Local 891 Welfare Fund enrollment form will receive a \$10,000 Burial Benefit. Additionally, any Active Member whose spouse, domestic partner, or dependent children aged 21 or younger (eligible to be listed on your Local 891 Welfare Fund enrollment form) who passes away, will receive a \$10,000 Burial Benefit. **As with a Widow's Care, you must be an Active Dues Paying Member of Local 891 to receive this benefit!** Please be sure to keep your beneficiaries up to date.

Fraternally,
Robert

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

April 2nd - Asbestos Screening
April 9th - Time Off For Graduation
April 9th - Passing of Arcimino (Jimmy) Amalfitano
April 11th - Education & Training Fund Schedule
April 13th - Passing of Ciro Schiavo
April 15th - FDNY Certificate of Fitness Procedure
April 16th - Supply Funding
April 18th - Chemical Inventory Procedures
April 26th - Do Not Provide Separate Cleaning Period Plan
May 2nd - Passing of Active Member Philip Lane

VICE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Pursuant to Article XXIX Mergers, Item #4 in our collective bargaining agreement, "Once a building is merged, it shall not be de-merged unless discussed with a Joint Committee on merged buildings of Local 891 and the Department."

If you are being demerged for any reason, please make sure to notify the Union Office so that we can advise you on the proper procedure to ensure you continue to receive your full salary. Conversely, if you receive a merge building, please notify the Union Office so we can make sure that you are receiving the correct salary.

We request that you notify the Union Office when receiving a merge or are being demerged, so we can maintain a current database of main buildings and their merges and for transfer list accuracy.

CUSTODIAL HELPER

MARVIN RODRIGUEZ, CUSTODIAL HELPER COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

Dear Brothers and sisters

NYCSSS is now accepting fill in request for up to a month. Starting July 1st, we can request summer fill ins for 2 months.

Grievances are still Virtual for CEs, but for the employees it's in person.

Please make sure you respond to the grievance email when you get it. If it's sent to you incorrectly, please let me or Theresa know.

Any questions please reach out to me or Theresa

Marvin Rodriguez C.H.C.C

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY

LIONEL SANTIAGO, OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

We are fast approaching the June 1st screening.

I have space for a few more applicants. Applications must be on my desk by May10th for processing.

If anyone is interested, please reach out to me ASAP.

I will send directions & appointment times starting on or about May 15th.

FYI:

Summer cleaning is fast approaching, please keep in mind any newly hired workers should be trained in cleaning & safety procedures.

Stay safe.

Lionel

LEGISLATIVE

MICHAEL KELLY, LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

"A Big Win in the State Budget for Our Tier 6 Members"

Tier 6 members received their biggest win for pension enhancement in 20 years. In the just passed State budget the final Average Salary Calculation was reduced from 5 years to 3 years. Now, our members last 3 years FAS will determine their lifetime pension benefits. This and the 2022 enhancement of Employee Vesting from 10 years to 5 years bring Tier 6 into parity with tier 4 on two issues, but the Job is not complete.

Next year's issues will involve Reducing the Contribution Rates and the Mandatory retirement age of 63 and its heavy reductions for retiring early.

Fixing Tier 6 is about Solidarity and Fairness. Why should some of our brothers and Sisters have to work longer, contribute more, only to receive less in retirement. This should anger every Union Member working and retired. It's also about Dignity, in choosing to work in the Public Sector we make less over the course of our career with the Promise of a Dignified Retirement. The State abandoned its commitment to that Guarantee with this forced upon Tier.

So, our fight will continue, led by Labor Leaders, and the collaborative efforts of Our friends in both Houses of the State Legislature, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, NYS Comptroller Tom DiNapoli and Governor Kathy Hochul.

SUPPLY

HARRY CENDER, SUPPLY COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we approach the end of the fiscal year, there are a few important dates to remember.

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

It's crucial to note that any items that cannot be delivered by June 30 will unfortunately be canceled. In such cases, the funds will be returned to the DOE. Please be aware that unspent funds will not roll over to the following fiscal year 25.

Outlook sometimes sends SDI quotes to the Junk/Spam folder. To avoid delays in procurement, please check this folder before you call or email SDI. If you find any SDI quotes in the Junk/Spam folder, mark them as 'Not Junk' to ensure they are delivered to your inbox.

There are times when FAMIS, our procurement system, does not send orders to SDI, our supplier. When this happens, SDI will ask you to go onto FAMIS, copy the proceed order, and email it to them. They provide easy step-by-step instructions. Please note that SDI does not have direct access to FAMIS, so this manual process is necessary to ensure timely procurement.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me at Supplies@Local891.com. Remember to always spend their funds wisely and with good judgment.

Fraternally,

Harry W. Cender

Supplies Committee Chairperson

Brothers & Sisters,

HOSPITALIZATION

KEVIN TROY, HOSPITALIZATION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

Medicare Part B Reimbursement

The 2023 Medicare Part B Reimbursement for retirees started being issued in the third week of April 2024. Please check your bank account statement or your mail if you are receiving a physical check. Medicare-eligible retirees and their Medicare-eligible dependents will be reimbursed annually for the standard Medicare Part B amount of \$164.90 per month. This calculates to \$1,978.80 for the calendar year from January to December, excluding any penalties and late enrollment fees, and is subject to being pro-rated. The current standard deduction for 2024 is \$174.70 per month for a calendar year total of \$2,096.40.

The City will reimburse retirees and their eligible dependents for Medicare Part B premiums paid. You must be receiving a city pension and be enrolled as the contract holder for the City health benefits in order to receive reimbursement for Part B premiums. For most retirees, the refund is issued automatically by the Health Benefits Program directly to your bank account if receiving your pension check through direct deposit. If not, you will receive your physical check by June 2024.

If you were eligible for Medicare Part B Reimbursement for prior years but did not enroll by completing an application along with a copy of your Medicare cards. You can still apply and be reimbursed for the previous 3 calendar years. To enroll, please complete the Medicare Part B Reimbursement Program Application and return it to the Health Benefits Program.

IRMAA Medicare Part B Reimbursement

If you paid more than the standard monthly reimbursement rate for Medicare Part B, as an Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amount (IRMAA), you may be eligible for an additional reimbursement. Submit the required documentation for Medicare Part B IRMAA reimbursement. The IRMAA application for 2023 will be available in May 2024. You may also fill out an application for up to 3 years back from the current year, if you were eligible.

Health Plan Coverage for Employees Hired Between October 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023

City of New York employees hired between October 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023 were only allowed to enroll in the EmblemHealth HIP HMO Preferred Plan. After 365 days of employment, the employee will have the option of either remaining in the HIP HMO Preferred Plan or selecting a different health plan. As you move into the last 30 days of the 365-day period, you will have the ability to select a different city health plan. If a new plan is selected, the new plan will be effective on the 366th day for you and your dependents. Only after the 365th day of employment can an employee participate in the Annual Fall Transfer Period. You can switch plans by logging into NYCAPS ESS. Any issues you can call NYCAPS at (212) 487-0500.

Additional information can be found on the Office of Labor Relations' (OLR) website. Including the Medicare Part B & IRMAA Reimbursement forms.

If anyone has any questions or concerns pertaining to their health benefits, please feel free to reach out to me at hospitalization@local891.com

Fraternally,
Kevin Troy
Hospitalization Committee Chairperson

Brothers and sisters,

I hope all is well with you and your families.

Members that are approved for Paid Family Leave will remain on DOE's payroll and continue to receive their current salaries. 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. You must reimburse the Department of Education for any salary earned while on Paid Family Leave.

Members will also receive a check simultaneously from the Agency's Insurance Company reflecting the amount that they are entitled to under the Paid Family Leave Act.

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

**In Unity,
Judith**

NY CENTRAL COUNCIL DELEGATE

JUDITH KOONCE/RICHARD GORGOGNONE, NY CENTRAL COUNCIL DELEGATES

Greetings Brothers and Sisters.

The monthly meeting of the New York Central Labor Council was held virtually on April 18, 2024.

Workers Memorial Day was celebrated on Thursday, April 25, 2024 at the City Hall Park in New York City. This event paid tribute to workers that died or were injured on the job. Each worker's name was read by family members and the participants. A flower was also laid in their honor.

Please remember as you perform any task that safety comes first.

**In Unity,
Judith**

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thank you members for attending the April 4th, 2024 general membership meeting held at M167. Remember to try and attend to get valuable and up to date information that pertains to your job. Also, attend to let your voices be heard.



IN MEMORIAM

Philip Lane
Active CE, M158/190

Condolences to:
Patsy Lane (spouse)
59 S. Reld Drive
Pearl River, NY 10965

Edwin J. Boden
Retired CE, M183

Condolences to:
Darlene Boden (spouse)
P.O. Box367
West Ossipee, NH 03890

Vincent J. Liggiio
Retired CE, X106

Condolences to:
John and Patricia Liggiio (children)
89 West 26 Street
Northampton, PA 18067

Arcimino (Jimmy) Amalfitano
Retired CE, Q062

Father of Active CE Jimmy Amalfitano (M600)



THE GAUGE

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

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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

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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
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 Rodriguez	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