The Gauge

October 2025

Local 891 AFL – CIO

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.

Anniversary Pins Will Be Distributed at the November General Membership Meeting

General Membership Meeting

The October General Membership Meeting will be held on **Thursday, October 9th** in Staten Island at IS 2 333 Midland Avenue, Staten Island N.Y. 10306

Variable Rate

Variable Rate Unit Value for September 2025: $179.931

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

I am writing this article to clarify an Issue some members seemed confused about, our titles. We have ONLY two civil service titles. There is Custodian Engineer Level I and Level II. The use of 1R to describe a Level I CEs certification is not a title. CE Level 1s with a refrigeration license are in a unique situation as they can put in for Level 1 buildings and Level 2 buildings. A Level I CE without their license can only put in for transfer to Level I assignments and Level II CEs can NOT put in for Level I assignments.

More than a few members have complained to me about the ability of Level I CEs to promote to Level II with certain college degrees. Some seem to think it gives those with a degree an unfair advantage. If that's what you believe, get your degree. Our training fund reimburses members for their tuition. If you can pass the refrigeration license exam you can pass the college classes. Education Committee Chairperson, Frank Byrne can offer advice to those who have doubts. If you don't think it's worth your time, don't complain about members who know it is. Besides, the contract provision that has been in effect since 2016 was passed along with the rest of the contract in a unanimous vote.

During negotiations for the 1995-1999 contract my predecessor negotiated the ability of Level I CEs with a refrigeration license to transfer to Level II assignments. Even then it was becoming more difficult to get high pressure steam time, or attract licensed stationary engineers to take the CE job. Now it's almost impossible to get high pressure steam time. I thought it was good idea then and still do. He felt a refrigeration license is not equivalent to the qualification to promote to Level II, I agree with that as well. Forget the fact that some of the Level I with a refrigeration license who complained to me are making maximum salary.

ANYONE WITH QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS ABOUT THIS TOPIC SHOULD CONTACT ME TO DISCUSS IT.

Electronic Communications

August 29th - Passing of Fremiot E. Santiago Sr.
September 4th - Labor Day Parade September 6th!
September 9th - Passing of Retired CE Ruben Miranda
September 9th - Changes to Legislative Committee
September 10th - Passing of Richard J Trafficanda
September 10th - Supplies Memo
September 11th - Education & Training Fund Schedule!
September 12th - Together WE Stand on the Shoulders of Giants!
September 17th - Rosh Hashannah & October Holidays
September 17th - Passing of Retired CE Gianfranco (John) Venier
September 18th - NYCSSS WRITE UPS!
September 22nd - Occupational Health and Safety Chairperson Change
September 25th - Leave Your Building Turn Off Your Phone
September 26th - Locksmith Class
September 26th - Financial Mentors!
September 30th - October Holidays!

VICE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Let's talk about retirement.

When an active Custodian Engineer decides to retire, the first step in the process is to notify the Director of Facilities in their Borough to schedule a meeting at the Borough Office. At that meeting your vacation and terminal leave balance will be formulated. Terminal leave is four paid days per year of service. For members that may not be aware, you continue to accrue vacation while on vacation and terminal leave, which is calculated at the initial meeting with DSF.

Many of our members are under the impression that they are required to come into work while they are on vacation into retirement every 2 weeks to input payroll for the NYCSSS employees that they supervise. This is not the case. You can if you so choose. The alternate Custodian watching the building while you are on vacation can input the payroll or NYCSSS will automatically input the default hours, and a historical edit will have to be done at later date to account for corrections and overtime worked.

Members can rescind their retirement up until the last day of their terminal leave. Please be aware once you begin terminal leave your assignment will appear on a vacancy list. If you return after that the Department can temporarily assign you to any vacant assignment in your title and pay you accordingly. We recommend that you contact Frank Sirabella, the Pension Committee Chairperson, Kevin Troy, the Hospitalization Committee Chairperson and Richard Gorgoglione, the Welfare and Annuity Chairperson with any questions about benefits into retirement or if any assistance in completing any retirement paperwork is needed.

Municipal Labor Committee

125 Barclay Street / New York, NY 10007 / (212) 815-1474

CHAIRPERSON
HARRY NESPOLI
Local 831, I.B.T. Uniformed Sanitationmen's Association, AFL-CIO

CO-CHAIRPERSON
HENRY A. GARRIDO
District Council 37, AFSCME, AFL-CIO

EXECUTIVE VICE-CHAIR
MICHAEL MULGREW
United Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO

SECRETARY
GREGORY FLOYD
Local 237
City Employees Union, I.B.T., AFL-CIO

TREASURER
GLORIA MIDDLETON
Local 1180, NYC Administrative Employees, CWA, AFL-CIO

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ANDREW ANSBRO
Uniformed Firefighters Association

BENNY BOSCIO, JR.
Correction Officers' Benevolent Association

JAMES BROSI
Local 854, Uniformed Fire Officers Association, AFL-CIO

JOSPEH COLANGELO
S.E.I.U. New York City Local 246

ROBERT CROGHAN
Organization of Staff Analysts

JAMES DAVIS
Professional Staff Congress
City University of New York

MICHAEL L. DeMARCO
Local 1455, NYC Traffic Employees
AFSCME, AFL-CIO

SONIA LAWRENCE
New York State Nurses Association

MARTIN A. LYDON
District Council of Carpenters, AFL-CIO

WILLIAM M. LYNN
International Union of Operating Engineers
Local 30, AFL-CIO

JOSEPH MANNION
Sanitation Officers Association

FRANCES QUEE, M.D.
Doctors Council

HENRY D. RUBIO
Council of School Supervisors & Administrators

DENNIS SCHOCK
Local 831, I.B.T. Uniformed Sanitationmen's Association, AFL-CIO

LOUIS TURCO
Lieutenants Benevolent Association

MAF MISBAH UDDIN
Local 1407, NYC Accountants, Statisticians & Actuaries, AFSCME, AFL-CIO

ANTHONY WELLS
Local 371, Social Service Employees, AFSCME, AFL-CIO

Executive Secretary
ELLEN MEDWID

Municipal Labor Committee Statement on Approval of Proposed NYCE PPO Plan

NEW YORK– The Municipal Labor Committee (MLC), a coalition of unions representing 400,000 city workers, approved a proposed new health plan offered jointly by EmblemHealth and UnitedHealthcare, the NYC Employees PPO (NYCE PPO) Plan. The plan, which required a two-thirds majority of the MLC membership to pass, received 88% of the vote.

The plan is the largest offered by the City of New York and covers 750,000 lives, including active workers, pre-Medicare retirees and their dependents.

The MLC issues the following joint statement:

"This morning's overwhelming approval of the proposed NYCE PPO Plan is the outcome of years of research, deliberation and negotiations to develop a health plan that addresses what matters most to our members: comprehensive medical coverage, accessible care, and zero premiums. We've been able to improve benefits, expand the network of providers while allowing our members to keep their existing doctors, and maintain premium-free health care without increasing out-of-pocket costs– especially important in an economic climate where every cent counts for our members' bottom line.

This plan is the conclusion of a negotiated acquisition process that took place over the last two years and allowed us to respond to our members' concerns while tackling the increasing health costs that threaten our ability to provide premium-free care.

We thank Commissioner Renee Campion and our partners at the City of New York for working with us to create the best possible health plan to take care of those who dedicate their lives to public service."

The NYCE PPO Plan will take effect Jan. 1, 2026. The open enrollment and transfer period will begin Nov. 1, where members will be able to select which of the City's available health plans best fits their needs.

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CUSTODIAL HELPER

Marvin Rodriguez, Custodial Helper Committee Chairperson

Brothers and Sisters,

Please be advised that write ups for NYCSSS workers should be sent to: humanresources@nycsss.org. Also, cc: custodialhelpercommittee@local891.com and your borough chairperson. There is no need to inform Local 32BJ or your DDF.

In solidarity,
Marvin Rodriguez
Custodial Helper Committee Chairperson

COMMITTEE CHANGE

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Lionel Santiago unexpectedly resigned from his position as Chairperson for the Occupational Health and Safety Committee. Nick Souto will be taking over as the Chairperson for Occupational Health and Safety effective immediately.

Judith Koonce has left the position as the FMLA Committee Chairperson. Will Carroll will be taking over as the Chairperson for the FMLA Committee.

Thank you,
Robert

HOSPITALIZATION

Kevin Troy, Hospitalization Committee Chairperson

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

It's that time again!

The Fall 2025 Annual Health Benefits Transfer Period is just around the corner, running from November 1 through November 30, 2025. This is your once-a-year opportunity to make changes to your NYC health benefits.

Any updates you make, such as switching plans or adding dependents, will take effect starting with the first payroll period in January 2026.
During the Transfer Period, both active members and retirees can:

- Change to a different NYC health plan
- Add or remove the Optional Rider
- Add or remove dependents (documentation required)
- Enroll in or waive coverage through the Buy-Out Waiver Program (if eligible)

As employees of a NYCAPS agency, we must use Employee Self-Service (ESS) to make any benefits changes.
To access NYCAPS ESS and make changes:

1. Visit www.nyc.gov/ess
2. Log in using your 7-digit City employee ID number
3. Click "Health Benefits" on the home screen
4. Click "Health Benefits Enrollment" to view or make changes
5. If adding dependents, be prepared to upload the required documentation

If you don't wish to make any changes, no action is require. Your current coverage will continue automatically.

Additional information, including updated health plan rates, summaries, and program details, is available on the NYC Office of Labor Relations website: www.nyc.gov/site/olr/health/healthhome.page

If you have any questions or need assistance, please feel free to contact me at hospitalization@local891.com.

Fraternally,
Kevin Troy
Hospitalization Committee Chairperson

LEGISLATIVE

Michael Kelly/Daniel Danvers, Legislative Committee Co-Chairpersons

Local 891's Business Manager/President, Robert J. Troeller, serving as a trustee on the board of the I.U.O.E's Northeastern States Conferences' 40th Convention, held in Cape May New Jersey.

Robert J. Troeller with Thomas Callahan, Business Manager/President of Local 15.

Brian Cunnigham, New York City Assembly member; Robert J. Troeller, Local 891's Business Manager/President and Letitia James, New York Attorney General.

Attending Local 1180's 60th Annual Scholarship Awards are Local 891's Treasurer, Kieran McKivergan; Vice President, Andrew Samberg; Legislative Committee Co-Chair, Daniel Danvers and Pension Committee Chairperson, Frank Sirabella.

Legislative Committee Co-Chair, Daniel Danvers with NY Assembly Speaker, Carl Heastie and Assembly member Sam Berger

SUPPLY

Harry Cender, Supply Committee Chairperson

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

About The Supply Budget Distribution

The annual supply budget is a crucial part of our operations, distributed in two phases. Approximately 80% is allocated at the start of the fiscal year, with the remaining balance issued later. Budgets are categorized under Supplies and Set Aside, and while funds may be moved between these two categories as needed, all transfers must be approved by your DDF in FAMIS. Any transfer of funds into Equipment accounts must first be reviewed and approved by the DDF.

Supply Record Keeping

Members, it's your responsibility to keep all order-related documentation, including emails from procurement regarding quotes, ordering records, packing slips, and warranty information, on file at the building. These records may be requested for review or audit. Ensure that all manufacturers warranty registration cards are completed and submitted as required. All copies must be maintained in the Custodian Engineer's office for records.

A Reminder About Temporary Care Assignments

Custodian engineers with a T/C must manage the supply budget effectively during their 8-week assignment. It's important not to exhaust the whole supply budget, as all remaining funds will roll over to the next assigned T/C. Outgoing members must share the order history with incoming engineers and maintain copies of all supply-related records. Also, ensure that there are supplies for the incoming T/C to get started. Please note that it may take up to two weeks for them to gain access to Famis and Galaxy. None of us likes it when we have to start a T/C scrambling to get supplies to the building.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at Supplies@Local891.com. We are here to support you in any way we can.

Fraternally,
Harry W. Cender
Supplies Committee Chairperson

CEs IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Superintendent, Dr. Carry Chan and DSF's Kevin Moran, honored District One CE's on Friday, 9/26/25 at Shuang Wen School (PS/MS 184). "We appreciate all your hard work and efforts to ensuring our schools are safe, clean and operate smoothly"!

Paula Wydra

Michael Lanzi

Mark Croymeyer

Vincent Gorgoglione

Alejandro Deno

MIchael Ruggiero

NYC CENTRAL COUNCIL DELEGATE

Delegates, Judith Koonce and Richard Gorgoglione

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
I hope that everyone and their family is doing well.

October's NYC Central Labor Council Delegate's Report.

President Brendan Griffith Opens First Meeting with Bold Agenda and Call for Unity

In a powerful and poignant opening to his first official meeting held on September 18, 2025, in person at 350W 31st New York NY, President Griffith called the session to order with a sense of solemnity and purpose.

Brendan Griffith was elected unanimously as President of the New York Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO on July 17, 2025. Former President Vincent Alvarez stepped down from his role and nominated Brendan Griffith to be his successor.

The gathering began with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence honoring workers who have tragically lost their lives on the job—a reminder of the real human cost behind workplace safety statistics.

President Griffith's remarks focused sharply on the alarming rise in workplace violence. He cited recent tragedies, including the killing of a bodega worker by a customer and a security guard fatally attacked by a tenant. These incidents underscore the urgent need for stronger protections and systemic reforms to ensure worker safety across industries.

The meeting also marked the introduction and swearing-in of new delegates, signaling a fresh wave of leadership and representation. Their presence reflects the growing strength and diversity of the labor movement.

A major highlight of the meeting was the mobilization of 10,000 Starbucks workers on Red Cup Day (November 13, 2025) rallying under the slogan "No Contract, No Coffee." Union members and the general public are being asked not to make purchases from Starbucks Coffee shops on Red Cup Day. The coordinated action is meant to send a clear message to corporate leadership: workers demand fair contracts and respect at the bargaining
table.

Thank you for reading this report and supporting the Labor Movement.

In Unity,
Sister Judith Koonce

LABOR DAY PARADE

Business Manager/President, Robert J Troeller swore in the newly elected local 891's members into their posts at this year's labor day parade/ September's general membership meeting. Thank you all who attended. It was great to see members and their families supporting this historic annual event.

CUSTODIAN ENGINEERS LOCAL UNION NO. 891
BOARD OF EDUCATION CITY OF NEW YORK
CHARTERED MARCH 26, 1924

AFL
CIO
LOCAL 891

891

Local 891 WELCOMES!!!

Congratulations on your new arrival!

Brooke Cancel

Born september 30th 2025

Daughter of Josh Cancel x173/ x780

IN MEMORIAM

Daniel Ryan

Condolences to:
Mary Ryan
87 Hulsetown Road
Chester, NY 10918

Gianfranco (John) Venier

Condolences to:
Josephine Venier
146-23 Willets Point Boulevard
Whitestone, NY 11357

Ruben Miranda

Condolences to:
Unfortunately no information is available on who might be sent condolences for Mr. Miranda

The Gauge

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
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Business Manager / President

Andrew W. Samberg
Vice President

John Maderich
Recording Corresponding Secretary

Richard A. Gorgoglione
Financial Secretary

Kieran M. McKivergan
Treasurer

Welfare & Annuity Funds

Richard A. Gorgoglione
Chairperson of Trustees
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Daniel H. Cook Associates
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212-505-5050

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New York, NY 10018-3726

Borough Chairpersons

Bronx	Susan Werner	ext. 220
Brooklyn	Andrew Foti	ext. 221
Manhattan	John Brennan	ext. 222
Queens	Joe Sanfilippo	ext. 223
Staten Island	Nicholas Souto	ext. 224

Committee Chairpersons

Children's Party	Darren Bell	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	Will Carroll	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	Nicholas Souto	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