The Gauge

Local 891 AFL - CIO
January 2026

Summons Meeting

There will be Summons Meeting at the January General Membership Meeting where we will be holding a secret ballot vote on a proposed change to the bylaws that can be accessed by clicking here

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.

Variable Rate

Variable Rate Unit Value
for December 2025: $187.659

General Membership Meeting

The Next Local 891 General Membership Meeting will be January 6th in Brooklyn at
K650 Whitney Vocational High School
257 North 6th Street
Brooklyn NY 11211

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

I would like to wish everyone a Happy and a Healthy New Year! I hope everyone was able to spend time with their loved ones during their well-deserved time off. I hope 2026 brings us all prosperity and unity. Despite the problems that we have in our lives, in the bigger picture we as Union members are very fortunate. Please remember those that are not as fortunate and keep benevolence in your hearts year-round.

It is my honor to take this opportunity to recognize our recently resigned Business Manager Robert Troeller and acknowledge his unblemished and transformational leadership for the past twenty two years. For those newer members of Local 891 that might not be familiar with the history of our Local, Robert faced a takeover of Local 891 by another Union of the Operating Engineers and the threat of privatization by the then Mayor Bloomberg when he first became President. Robert was not expected to succeed. Twenty two years later, we are still here and Mayor Bloomberg and contractors are not.

I personally thank Robert and on behalf of the Chair Officers, Union Officials, Committee Chairs and the members, thank him for all his hard work, continually improving the quality of life for our members and always looking for ways to improve upon and provide better benefits and wages for the good of our membership.

There is something that Robert once said to me many years ago that has stayed with me. He said, 'We stand on the shoulders of giants." Just as Robert has built upon the major accomplishments and the gains of our past Presidents, Chair Officers and Union Officials. I, along with the new administration, intend to do the same. The Chair Officers and I will be coming out to each Borough on a regular basis to visit not only individual buildings but will also be holding District and Boroughwide meetings to disseminate vital information and to hear the concerns and answer the questions of our members. This is just one of many ideas that we will be implementing. Please keep in mind that these are new roles for Kieran, Nick, and I. We will make mistakes, but we will learn from them. But remember, every decision that I make after extensive discussion with both the Chair Officers, and the Executive Board will be for the good of the entire membership. I, along with the rest of the Chair Officers, am available to always answer your questions and concerns. My cell phone number is 516.524.8657. Please save it if you do not already have me as a contact.

The January 2026 General membership meeting will be a historic meeting. A new Business Manager has not been sworn in for over 2 decades! Please be sure to attend the meeting to witness the swearing in of all the new Chair Officers and Executive Board member!

January's meeting is also a summons meeting. There will be a vote on the proposed By-Law changes. Please make every effort to attend, cast your ballot and have your voice heard. Former Business Manager Troeller has requested to give a farewell address and the Chair Officers all agreed to allow him to do so. Once again, please make every effort to attend.

I will end this article by thanking the Chair Officers for electing me to fill the remainder of the term as Local 891's Business Manager/President. As I have done in all my years as a Committee Chairperson and as the Vice President, I give my promise to you all, that I will go above and beyond to serve the members of Local 891. Thank you all for this opportunity.

Electronic Communications

December 14th - Robert Troeller resigns as BM/President
December 15th - President Robert Troeller Resignation Speech
December 16th - Christopher Yulfo to take Executive Board Position
December 16th - General Membership Meeting January 6th!
December 16th - Education & Training Fund Schedule
December 16th - I Truly Appreciate Your Service
December 17th - Business Manager Email
December 22nd - Summons Meeting January
December 23rd - Transfer List Expected Soon
December 30th - NYCE PPO COVERAGE BEGINS JANUARY 1, 2026

HOSPITALIZATION

Kevin Troy, Hospitalization Committee Chairperson

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

First, I would like to wish everyone and their families a happy, healthy New Year! Please be aware of the following updates regarding your insurance plans.

NYCE PPO Coverage Begins January 1, 2026

Beginning January 1, 2026, active members and pre-Medicare retirees currently enrolled in the GHI CBP plan, along with their eligible dependents, transitioned to the NYC Employees (NYCE) PPO health plan.

Members should have received a NYCE PPO insurance ID card and welcome materials from EmblemHealth and UnitedHealthcare in December. The new plan uses one ID card for both medical and hospital coverage, and all plan information is available through a single online portal at www.nyceppo.com.

The NYCE PPO preserves premium-free health coverage for five years. Copayments remain the same, and members may continue seeing their current doctors. The plan offers a national PPO network, allowing in-network care anywhere in the country without referrals. The provider network expands access locally and nationwide, adding more than 1.6 million providers, including mental health services.

The plan also reduces administrative barriers by cutting in half the number of procedures requiring prior authorization. Any authorizations approved under the GHI CBP plan that extend into 2026 automatically carried over.

Prescription Coverage

Prescription drug coverage for both active members and retirees is provided through the optional prescription drug rider. EmblemHealth changed its pharmacy benefit manager from Express Scripts to Prime Therapeutics for all health plans. Prime Therapeutics' drug formulary is about 40 percent larger than Express Scripts, providing access to a broader range of medications. Existing prescriptions transferred automatically on January 1, 2026.

There are no changes to the NYC PICA program for specialty medications, which continues to be administered by Express Scripts.

Important Reminder

Changes made to your health plan during the annual transfer period went into effect January 1, 2026. Any deductions due to a change in your plan will begin on January 15, 2026, the first full pay period of the new year. Please check your paystub in the Payroll Portal to make sure your deductions are correct, either for your current plan if you made no changes, or for changes made to your health plan during the transfer period.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the new plan, you can contact EmblemHealth Member Services directly at 212-501-4444 or visit www.nyceppo.com. You can also reach out to me at hospitalization@local891.com.

Fraternally,
Kevin Troy
Hospitalization Committee Chairperson

FMLA

William Carroll, FMLA Committee Chairperson

Good day Folks,

If any member is looking to use paid family leave for child bonding, below are the best steps to communicate with payroll and the insurance company - Absolve Solutions.
Remember, in order to be eligible a CE (provisional or permanent) must be in title with a minimum of one year's service.

All information below is from the inception of the FMLA committee and has been built upon for the benefit of all the members of Local 891. I am happy to share this information with all Local 891 members.

Please remember to email fmlassistance@local891.com in addition as this is a living document and information may change.

Paid Family Leave for bonding with a child
Fill out the NY State application form (Attached link PFL 3 form). Complete and email all documentation to paidfamilyleaveDOE@schools.nyc.gov, also carbon copy Ms. Natalie Green at NGreen5@schools.nyc.gov on the email.

It is not required to fill out the employer's section, PFL-2. Fill out the employee's section only and send it along with the completed section from the Healthcare Provider i.e. the birth certificate.
The name of the PFL Insurance company used by the Public Schools is Absolve Absence Solutions.

On the days to be used for PFL, call/email the DOE book-out line, "book out paid family leave". Then call out to Absolve Absence Solutions at 800-401-2641 for the day or days being taken (multiple days or weeks for notification can also be done in one call).
Please have your employee ID number at the ready.

Time can be taken intermittently, with that in mind, full days must be taken.
Half days are not permitted when taking time off for paid family leave.

It is important to remember when one is planning on using leave intermittently to ensure that time is used within each 90-day period (a minimum of one day every 90-day period). This is done in order to keep the insurance case active.

If you have any questions.
My cell is 917-903-0335
In solidarity,
Will

SUPPLY

Harry Cender, Supply Committee Chairperson

Happy New Year, Brothers and Sisters

We can expect our final allocation drop for this fiscal year sometime this month.

It's important to remember that, according to our annual Supply Program Circular instructions, you must certify your supply orders in FAMIS using one of two options:
Partially Received or Received in Full. Do not use "not received" as a placeholder!

Orders not received require a follow-up by the CE until the order is fulfilled or canceled.
Email the vendor and CC your borough procurement analyst.

MSC: nycgovteam@mscdirect.com, Fastenal: schoolsnyc@fastenal.com

Grainger: GovNY@Grainger.com, NYSID: customerservice@nysid.org,

NIB: customercare@nyspsp.org,

Effective immediately, Fuat Mondal has been reassigned. Matilde Males, Richard Cruz, and Ramy Gandy will assist you as our BPAs for Custodial Supplies Inquiries, including non-contract quotes, order cancellations and refunds, and adding items to the FAMIS catalog.

Specific BPA Assignments are as follows:

Manhattan & Bronx Richard Cruz RCruz6@schools.nyc.gov

Queens & Staten Island Matilde Males MMales@schools.nyc.gov

North & South Brooklyn Ramy Gandy RGandy@schools.nyc.gov

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not 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 Chairman

NYC CENTRAL COUNCIL DELIGATE

Delegates, Judith Koonce & Richard Gorgoglione

Happy New Year Brothers and Sisters

NYC Central Labor Council AFL-CIO – December Meeting Highlights

Meeting Overview: Held via Zoom on December 18, 2025. Secretary-Treasurer Janella Hines presented November minutes and the President's report.

Starbucks Strike Update:
o Over 4,500 workers in 150 cities participated in a historic strike, including seven locations in NYC.

o Workers faced arrests for striking; a GoFundMe supports those on picket lines.

Camba Union Issue:
o Brooklyn-based Camba replaced union staff with non-union workers ("scabs") and awarded them bonuses.

o CEO earns the equivalent of the lowest-paid employee's salary in just two weeks.

Legislative Action – Protect America's Workforce Act (H.R. 2550):
o Passed in the House 231–195 via rare discharge petition; restores collective bargaining rights to 1 million federal workers.

o Senate companion bill introduced with 48 co-sponsors; NY Senators support it.

o Call to Action: Share the link to urge others to contact their Senators.

In Solidarity,
Sister Judith

Congratulations Michael Kelly

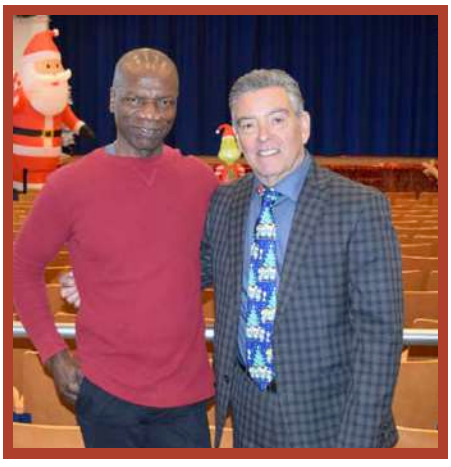
Local 891's Legislative Committee Chairperson, Michael Kelly is hanging it up. Congratulations to Mike and thank you for your many years of service.

Mike was honored for his years of service at the 891's Executive Board holiday party. Friends also joined Mike at Paddy's of Park Slope to celebrate his retirement

Staten Island Holiday Party

Local 891's Executive Board Holiday Party

Local 891's Annual Children Party



MANHATTAN & BRONX HOLIDAY PARTY

QUEENS HOLIDAY PARTY

In Memoriam

Donald Gardner
Condolences to:
Noreen Gardner (spouse)
571 Woodbridge Way
The Villages, FL 32163

Francis Doonan
Condolences to:
Thomas & Patricia Doonan (children)
143 Pleasant Avenue
Pleasantville, NY 10570

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Legal Services (516) 466-6030

Daniel H. Cook Associates
Welfare forms – eye care vouchers - claims information
212-505-5050

1040 Ave of the Americas, Flr. 24
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	Harry Cender	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	Daniel Danvers	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