



LOCAL 79 NEWS

CONSTRUCTION & GENERAL BUILDING LABORERS



BARRIE SMITH SELECTED TO JOIN LOCAL 79 EXECUTIVE BOARD

Local 79's Executive Board has selected Barrie Smith, a Business Agent for Laborers' Local 79, to be an Auditor on Local 79's Executive Board. A vacancy arose on September 28, 2015, when recently-elected Auditor Dave Moretti submitted his resignation. The Executive Board acted in accordance with Article VI, Section 3, (m) of the LiUNA's Uniform Local Union Constitution, which permits the Executive Board to fill a vacancy by appointment with a member having all requirements for office. Upon hearing that he had been selected, Barrie said: "It is a huge honor to be selected to be an Auditor on Local 79's Executive Board. I look forward to help lead this union, which has given me so much, into the future."

Barrie has been a proud member of Local 79 for over a dozen years. Prior to working as a Business Agent, he worked as a Local 79 laborer, shop steward, and foreman and as an organizer for Build Up New York. A graduate of Ulster Community College, Barrie is the president of 100 Black Construction Workers (100 BCW). He is also a member of the New York City chapter of the NAACP, the A. Philip Randolph Institute, and the National Action Network (NAN).

Those who know Barrie Smith are struck by his boundless energy. Aside from working long hours and doing an excellent job as a Business Agent, Barrie can be seen "off-hours" at rallies, parades, volunteer events throughout the community, Community Board meetings, and hearings. And in his "spare" time, Barrie, a winner of the Golden Glove Award in 1989, continues to pursue his love of boxing.

Local 79 Executive Board [front row, left to right] Kenneth Brancaccio, President, George Zecca, Secretary-Treasurer, Michael Prohaska, Business Manager, John Norbury, Vice President, [back row, left to right] Jose Andino, Executive Board Member, Luis Montalvo, Auditor, Anthony Vita, Executive Board Member, Chaz Rynkiewicz, Sergeant-at-Arms, Joseph Cestaro, Recording Secretary, Barrie Smith, Auditor, Anthony Williamson, Auditor

LEGAL SERVICES ELIGIBILITY EXPANDED

Business Manager Mike Prohaska, Secretary-Treasurer George Zecca, and President Kenneth Brancaccio recently announced a change, effective immediately, that expands eligibility for Local 79's Legal Services Plan. Members will now be eligible for a full year of legal services—January 1 to December 31—if they have worked a minimum of 700 hours during the eligibility period (defined as Nov 1 through Oct 31 of the preceding year.) The Legal Services Plan offers members a variety of free legal services and are now available in all counties in New Jersey. Plan Director Mike Prohaska said he was "happy to provide this expanded benefit to members. Eligibility for a year of legal services now matches the criteria for eligibility for healthcare, which is the right thing for our members."



LEARN MORE > www.local79.org

DUES NEWS

Member Dues: \$34/month*

Retiree Dues: \$8/month

*Monthly dues will increase to \$35 as of January 1, 2016, as per the LiUNA Constitution.

Dues payments must not go over two months without being paid or the member will be suspended. The readmission fee is \$56 for every month that the dues payments are behind plus \$34 for the current month.

REMINDER

Members' Union Book numbers must be written on their checks or money orders when paying dues by mail.

Members may also call the Dues Department, provide their book number, and pay by credit card.

OUT-OF-WORK LIST RE-REGISTRATION NOTICE

All persons on Local 79's job referral list must re-register for the list during the first five business days of each quarter to maintain their position on the list.

NEXT RE-REGISTRATION PERIOD WILL BE:

January 4-8, 2016

LOCAL 79 EXECUTIVE BOARD

Mike Prohaska, Business Manager

Kenneth Brancaccio, President

John Norbury, Vice President

George Zecca, Secretary-Treasurer

Joe Cestaro, Recording Secretary

Chaz Rynkiewicz, Sergeant-at-Arms

Anthony Vita, Executive Board member

Jose Andino, Executive Board member

Luis Montalvo, Auditor

Anthony Williamson, Auditor

Barrie Smith, Auditor

Construction and General Building Laborers' Local 79

520 Eighth Avenue, Suite 679, New York, NY 10018

Phone: 212-465-7900 Fax: 212-465-7903

An affiliate of: the Mason Tenders District Council of Greater New York and Long Island, LiUNA; the New York City Central Labor Council; the Building and Construction Trades Council of Greater New York; and the New York State AFL-CIO.

MESSAGE FROM BUSINESS MANAGER

MIKE PROHASKA

I am happy to report that we have achieved a number of significant victories and successes in the past months, due to the hard work of Local 79 members, staff, and affiliates.

As most members know, Local 79, LECET, the MTDCPAC and other affiliates have spent a great deal of time and effort to demand reform of the Department of Housing and Preservation Development (HPD), the City agency that oversees subsidized affordable housing. On October 15, City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito and Councilwoman Helen Rosenthal introduced a bill to create an ombudsman (watchdog) position at HPD, which will advocate for workers who are the victims of wage theft and labor violations and for homeowners who live in shoddily constructed homes. The bill stipulates that substantiated complaints received by the ombudsman will, for the first time, play a role in determining whether a company can make it onto the City's preferred contractor list.

While this bill does not go as far as we would like at rooting out corruption at HPD (Wendell Walters, a former top official at HPD, was sentenced to three years in prison for corruption the day before the bill was introduced), all of us should feel proud that the Speaker of the City Council is on our side in our effort to reform this corrupt agency. We have her attention, we have the City Council's attention, and we will not stop until we are able to get the reforms we seek.

There is other good news on affordable housing, made possible in large part due to our collective efforts: A housing investment firm tied to the AFL-CIO announced a \$1 billion commitment to financing 20,000 affordable housing units in New York City over the next seven years, with all the projects using union labor. There will be 5,000-7,500 new units constructed, and 12,500 to 15,000 existing units preserved. In addition, Controller Stringer announced a \$150 million investment from the New York City Retirement Systems in to the AFL-CIO's Housing Investment Trust, signifying his belief that affordable housing can and should be built with union labor.

In recent months, our Organizing Department and LEROF have waged an all-out battle to organize Red Hook Demolition, a company that has been attacking the union market. Through a number of organizing tactics—salting, stripping workers, door-to-door calls—we were able to get 104 authorization cards signed that resulted in the workers voting in a September 18 election to decide whether they wanted to go union. Despite many tactics by the company, many of which are being challenged by us, the votes that have been counted so far favor unionization. This effort is one of many that we are undertaking against non-union demolition contractors.

I wanted to end this message by thanking Local 79 members for their contributions to a different kind of victory. Three years ago, this union made a commitment to raise \$500,000 over a five-year period for St. Mary's Hospital for Children in Queens. The recent Walk for St. Mary's Kids at Coney Island, which was attended by well over 500 members and their families, was tremendously helpful in assisting us with fulfilling our commitment to the children of St. Mary's.

Fraternally,



Mike Prohaska



  Follow us on Facebook & Twitter

Contact information, events calendar, news, and general information can be found at www.local79.org

Laborers'
International
Union of
North America

LiUNA!

Feel the Power

TAX RELIEF FOR WORKERS

WHO SUFFERED DISABILITY AS A RESULT OF THE 9/11 ATTACKS

In accordance with IRS Publication 3920 Tax Relief for Victims of Terrorist Attacks, disability payments (including but not limited to Pension and Social Security Disability Insurance payments) are not included in income if they are for injuries incurred as a direct result of a terrorist attack (including the September 11 attacks, anthrax attacks, and Oklahoma City attack) directed against the United States (or its allies). However, you must include in your income any disability payments you received or you would have received in retirement had you not become disabled as a result of a terrorist attack.

Local 79 members who became disabled as a direct result of a terrorist attack should consult with their tax preparer to determine if they are eligible to take advantage of these provisions in the tax law, as this could impact the taxability of benefits received from the Mason Tenders' District Council Pension or Annuity Funds. It is important to note that eligible individuals can amend previously filed returns, subject to the statute of limitation rules for refunds.

Tax rules are complex and this communication is intended for informational purposes only and is not tax advice.

Local 79 Members Ensure Your Future Financial Security!

Beginning in November, Local 79 will start to offer members a series of workshops on issues related to retirement and education saving for your children. The workshops will be provided free of charge by advisors from Wells Fargo and are intended for all members, not only those who are nearing retirement. The workshops will enable members to make informed decisions about their financial future. All workshops are approximately one-hour long and begin at 5:00 pm at Local 79's offices.

SPACE IN THESE WORKSHOPS IS LIMITED

Reserve a spot by calling Thom Thacker at 212-465-7928.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

Tuesday, November 10, 2015

Avoiding Big Mistakes When Saving for Retirement

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

Six Steps to Help Secure Your Retirement

Tuesday, January 12, 2016

Social Security & Your Retirement

Tuesday, February 9, 2016

Building Your Child's Education Fund



RETIREES ENJOY DAY AT BELMONT PARK RACE TRACK

On September 25, Local 79 retirees went on their annual outing to Belmont Park Race Track. The gorgeous weather that greeted them was made even better by good food, good friends, and good horse races!

LOCAL 79 MEMBERS

SHOW THEIR PRIDE

Local 79 members came out in record numbers this summer for the Ecuadorian Day Parade, the Labor Day Parade, and the African American Day Parade.

Ecuadorian Day Parade, August 2nd



Labor Day Parade, September 12th





BARRIE SMITH ES SELECCIONADO PARA FORMAR PARTE DE LA JUNTA EJECUTIVA DEL LOCAL 79

La Junta Ejecutiva del Local 79 ha seleccionado a Barrie Smith, un agente comercial del Local 79 de los Trabajadores, como auditor en la Junta Ejecutiva del Local 79. El 28 de septiembre de 2015 se produjo una vacante cuando el auditor Dave Moretti, recientemente elegido, presentó su renuncia. La Junta Ejecutiva actuó de conformidad con el artículo VI, sección 3 (m) de la Constitución Uniforme para Locales Sindicales de LIUNA, que permite que la Junta Ejecutiva llene una vacante mediante el nombramiento de un miembro que tenga todos los requisitos para el cargo. Al enterarse de que lo habían seleccionado, Barrie dijo: "Es un enorme honor ser seleccionado como auditor para la Junta Ejecutiva del Local 79. Espero poder ayudar a conducir este sindicato, que me ha dado tanto, hacia el futuro".

Barrie ha sido un orgulloso miembro del Local 79 durante más de una docena de años. Antes de trabajar como agente

comercial, fue trabajador, delegado sindical y capataz en el Local 79, y un organizador de Build Up New York. Egresado de Ulster Community College, Barrie es el presidente de 100 Black Construction Workers (100 BCW). También es miembro del capítulo de la ciudad de Nueva York de la NAACP, el A. Philip Randolph Institute, y la National Action Network (NAN).

Todos los que conocen a Barrie Smith quedan muy impresionados por su inextinguible energía. Aparte de trabajar largas horas y realizar una excelente labor como agente comercial, Barrie puede verse "fuera de horas" en concentraciones, paradas, eventos voluntarios en toda la comunidad, reuniones de la junta comunitaria, y audiencias. Y en su muy poco tiempo "libre", Barrie, ganador del Premio Golden Glove de 1989, sigue practicando su amor por el boxeo.

MENSAJE DEL GERENTE COMERCIAL: MIKE PROHASKA

Me complace informar que hemos logrado una serie de victorias y éxitos importantes en los últimos meses gracias al trabajo esforzado de los miembros del Local 79 y de su personal y sus afiliadas.

Como la mayoría de los miembros sabe, el Local 79, LECET, MTDCAPAC y otras afiliadas han dedicado mucho tiempo y esfuerzo a tratar de exigir una reforma del Departamento de Conservación y Desarrollo de Viviendas (Department of Housing Preservation and Development, HPD) de la ciudad de Nueva York, que supervisa las viviendas asequibles subsidiadas. El 15 de octubre, Melissa Mark-Viverito, presidenta del Concejo Municipal, y la concejal Helen Rosenthal presentaron un proyecto de ley para crear el cargo de Ombudsman (vigilante) en el HPD, cuyas funciones consisten en defender a los trabajadores que son víctimas de robo de salarios y violaciones laborales, y a los propietarios que viven en viviendas mal construidas. El proyecto de ley estipula que las quejas justificadas que reciba el Ombudsman, por primera vez, serán un factor a considerar para determinar si una empresa puede incluirse o no en la lista de contratistas preferidos de la ciudad.

Si bien este proyecto de ley no avanza tanto como querríamos para erradicar la corrupción de HPD (Wendell Walters, un exfuncionario del HPD, fue sentenciado

a tres años de cárcel por corrupción el día anterior a la presentación del proyecto de ley), todos nosotros debemos sentirnos orgullosos de que la presidenta del Concejo Municipal apoye nuestros esfuerzos para reformar esta agencia corrupta. Tenemos toda su atención, tenemos la atención del Concejo Municipal, y no nos detendremos hasta lograr las reformas que pedimos.

También quiero compartir otras buenas noticias para la vivienda asequible, que son posibles en gran medida gracias a nuestros esfuerzos colectivos: Una firma de inversiones inmobiliarias relacionada con la AFL-CIO anunció un compromiso de 1 billón de dólares para financiar 20,000 unidades de vivienda asequible en la ciudad de Nueva York durante los próximos siete años; y en todos estos proyectos se utilizará mano de obra sindicalizada. Se construirán entre 5000 y 7500 unidades nuevas, y se conservarán entre 12,500 y 15,000 unidades existentes. Además, el contralor Stringer anunció una inversión de \$150 millones del Sistema Jubilariorio de la ciudad de Nueva York en el Fondo de Inversión para Viviendas de la AFL-CIO, lo cual confirma su convicción de que la vivienda asequible puede y debe construirse con mano de obra sindicalizada.

En los últimos meses, nuestro Departamento de Organización y

LEROF han librado una batalla campal para organizar a Red Hook Demolition, una empresa que ha estado atacando al mercado sindicalizado. Mediante una serie de tácticas de organización, como la contratación de trabajadores sindicalizados en la empresa, los reclutamientos individuales y las llamadas puerta a puerta, logramos obtener 104 tarjetas de autorización firmadas que permitieron que los trabajadores votaran en una elección del 18 de septiembre para decidir si querían afiliarse al sindicato. A pesar de las numerosas tácticas de la empresa, muchas de las cuales estamos desafiando, los votos que se han contado hasta el momento favorecen la sindicalización. Este es solo uno de los muchos esfuerzos que estamos realizando, y que seguiremos realizando, en contra de los contratistas de demolición no sindicalizados.

Quería terminar este mensaje agradeciendo a los miembros del Local 79 por sus contribuciones a una clase de victoria diferente. Hace tres años, este sindicato se comprometió a recaudar \$500,000 en un período de cinco años para el St. Mary's Hospital for Children de Queens. La reciente Caminata para el St. Mary's en Coney Island, que contó con la asistencia de más de 500 miembros y sus familias, fue tremendamente útil para ayudarnos a cumplir nuestro compromiso con los niños del St. Mary's.

ALIVIO DE IMPUESTOS PARA LOS TRABAJADORES QUE SUFRIERON DISCAPACIDAD COMO RESULTADO DE LOS ATAQUES DEL 9/11

De conformidad con la publicación 3920 del IRS titulada Tax Relief for Victims of Terrorist Attacks (Alivio de impuestos para víctimas de ataques terroristas), los pagos por discapacidad (incluidos, entre otros los pagos de Pensión y por Discapacidad del Seguro Social) no se incluyen en los ingresos si se deben a lesiones sufridas como resultado directo de un ataque terrorista (incluidos los ataques del 11 de septiembre, ataques de ántrax, y el ataque de la ciudad de Oklahoma) dirigidos en contra de los Estados Unidos (o de sus aliados). Sin embargo, debe incluir en sus ingresos los pagos por discapacidad que recibió o que habría recibido durante su jubilación si no hubiera quedado discapacitado como consecuencia de un ataque terrorista.

Los miembros del local 79 que quedaron discapacitados como consecuencia directa de un ataque terrorista deberán consultar a su preparador de impuestos para determinar si son elegibles para aprovechar estas disposiciones de la ley de impuestos, dado que esto podría afectar la exención fiscal de los beneficios recibidos de la Pensión o de los Fondos de Anualidad del Consejo Distrital de Albañiles (Mason Tenders' District Council). Es importante hacer notar que las personas elegibles pueden modificar declaraciones de impuestos presentadas anteriormente, sujeto a las reglas del estatuto de limitación para reembolsos.

Las reglas fiscales son complejas y esta comunicación es solo para fines informativos y no debe considerarse asesoramiento en cuestión de impuestos.

Miembros del Local 79 ¡Asegúrense la seguridad de su futuro financiero!

A partir de noviembre, el Local 79 comenzará a ofrecer a sus miembros una serie de talleres sobre asuntos relacionados con la jubilación y el ahorro para la educación de sus hijos. Los talleres son gratis y serán dados por asesores de Wells Fargo; y también se ofrecen a todos los miembros, no sólo a los que están a punto de jubilarse. Los talleres permitirán que los miembros tomen decisiones informadas sobre su futuro financiero. Todos los talleres duran aproximadamente una hora y empiezan a las 5:00 P.M. en las oficinas del Local 79.

EL ESPACIO PARA ESTOS TALLERES ES LIMITADO

Reservar un lugar llamando a Thom Thacker al 212-465-7928.

Por favor, tenga en cuenta que el contenido de cada taller se presentará en Inglés.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

Martes 10 de noviembre de 2015

Evitar grandes errores al ahorrar para la jubilación

Martes 8 de diciembre de 2015

Seis pasos que le ayudarán a tener una jubilación segura

Martes 12 de enero de 2016

El Seguro Social y su jubilación

Martes 9 de febrero de 2016

Cómo construir el fondo para la educación de sus hijos



LOS JUBILADOS DISFRUTAN DE UN DÍA EN EL HIPÓDROMO DE BELMONT PARK

El 25 de septiembre, los jubilados del Local 79 pasaron su salida anual en el Hipódromo de Belmont Park. ¡El clima espectacular que los recibió se hizo sentir aun mejor por la buena comida, los buenos amigos y las buenas carreras de caballos!



Construction & General Building
Laborers' Local 79
520 8th Avenue, Suite 679
New York, NY 10018
Phone: 212-465-7900 Fax: 212-465-7903

UPCOMING EVENTS 2015

Call Melissa Siciliano at
212-465-7976 for more info

NOV 18 at 5pm
General Membership Meeting
St. Vartan Church, 630 2nd Avenue

NOV 20 - Buses depart at 8am
Retiree Outing*
Mount Airy Casino Resort
Mount Pocono, PA

DEC 2 at Noon
Retiree Holiday Party*
Russo's on the Bay
162-45 Cross Bay Boulevard
Howard Beach

DEC 16 at 5pm
**General Membership Meeting
& Holiday Party** - Terrace on the Park
52-11 111th Street,
Flushing Meadows Park, Queens

** RSVP with Melissa Siciliano to attend these events*



Local 79 Members **WALK FOR ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN**

Over 500 Local 79 members went to Coney Island on the morning of September 19 to participate in a Walk for St. Mary's Kids, which raised over \$10,000 for St. Mary's Hospital for Children. After the walk, members and their families got a chance to socialize, eat, and spend time in the Luna Park amusement park. "The generosity shown by our membership in supporting this march goes a long way in helping Local 79 meet its five-year fundraising goal for St. Mary's Hospital for Children," said Business Manager Mike Prohaska. "The combination of a charity walk with a family fun day was, without a doubt, a win-win for all."