



LOCAL 79 NEWS

CONSTRUCTION & GENERAL BUILDING LABORERS



LOCAL 79 MEMBERS RALLY to Demand Union-Built Affordable Housing

ON FEBRUARY 23, NEARLY ONE HUNDRED MEMBERS OF LOCAL 79 RALLIED AT CITY HALL PARK ALONGSIDE HUNDREDS OF MEMBERS OF REAL AFFORDABILITY FOR ALL (RAFA), a broad-based coalition that is opposed to Mayor de Blasio's affordable housing plan. Numerous speakers, including Gary LaBarbera, president of the Building and Construction Trades Council, protested the Mayor's plan to rezone a number of neighborhoods in New York. His plan, which includes a provision called Mandatory Inclusionary Housing (MIH), contains no assurances that the affordable housing will be built union. At the same time, lower-income residents of the neighborhoods that are proposed for rezoning will not meet the income qualifications for the affordable housing and will likely be driven out of their neighborhoods due to the increased rents that typically accompany rezoning. "The Mayor's affordable housing plan is deeply flawed," said Local 79 Director of Organizing Chaz Rynkiewicz. "I urge everyone to go the website Building Blocks NYC (www.buildingblocksnyc.com) to read more about the way his plan would cause irreparable damage to workers and residents of New York City."



eLocal

MEMBERS CAN NOW PAY DUES ONLINE!

Local 79 is happy to announce the launch of eLocal, which provides members with the ability to pay their dues online, as well as check their course history, certificates, participation history, and update their personal information. All Local 79 members received a letter with detailed instructions and an individual "access code" which allows them to create a secure account online. Once the account is created, access to eLocal is quick and easy. "Local 79's Executive Board worked hard to create this new benefit for members, said Local 79 Secretary-Treasurer George Zecca. "This is a major leap forward. I expect that the majority of our members will register and take advantage of eLocal's many easy-to-use features."



Members who experience problems registering for eLocal can call Ursula at 212-465-7911.

LEARN MORE > www.local79.org

DUES NEWS

Member Dues: \$35/month

Retiree Dues: \$8/month

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 \$35 for the current month.

PAY DUES ONLINE!

Members are encouraged to pay their dues online through **eLocal** (see cover article). 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.

UPCOMING 2016 RE-REGISTRATION PERIODS:

April 1-7 / July 1 (until noon) / July 5-11 / Oct 3-7

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

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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.

  Follow us on Facebook & Twitter

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



MESSAGE FROM BUSINESS MANAGER MIKE PROHASKA

I hope all of you had a happy, healthy, and peaceful holiday season.

I want to take the opportunity to say a few words about the strength and reputation of Local 79. As many of you no doubt know, the Training Fund held an online recruitment for apprentices on January 15, 2016. In the weeks preceding the online registration, Local 79's website saw a ten-fold increase in the amount of visitors who went to the apprenticeship page. On the day of the online recruitment, the 1,000 available interview slots were gone in a record one minute and 42 seconds. There are thousands and thousands of people in New York City who want to join Local 79, the union that all of you built and continue to build. Local 79 recently hired two Organizers to work in the new Organizing Internship Program. This will assist Local 79 in strengthening our organizing efforts in all sectors and will ensure that Local 79 continues to grow. With this growth, we will be able to offer more apprenticeship opportunities to the many qualified workers who want to join our union.

As you will read in this newsletter, this is the final newsletter that the general membership will be receiving in the mail (*Retirees will continue to receive a written publication twice a year*). To keep up with everything that is going on at the Local, I am strongly encouraging all members to visit Local 79's Facebook page and to begin to explore and use the many features offered by Local 79's website (www.local79.org). The staff at Local 79 has worked long and hard to make our website member-friendly and to make sure it has all the information that the membership needs, including up-to-date Local 79 news and events, contact information, and a section devoted to member services. And, as you will also read in this newsletter, we have just added a Members Portal to the home page of Local 79's website. When members enter this portal, they are taken to **eLocal**, an application that allows members to pay their dues online and much, much more. **eLocal**, which is open 24 hours a day, provides members with a very convenient way to pay their dues and access and update personal information. I hope that many, many members take advantage of this new service, which will have more member-friendly features in the future.

Fraternally,

Mike Prohaska

Laborers'
International
Union of
North America

LiUNA!

Feel the Power

NEW PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT PROVIDER

BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2016, OptumRx became the new prescription drug benefit manager for Local 79 members who are eligible for healthcare benefits. This will result in close to \$4 million in savings each year for the next three years. Local 79's recent expansion of eligibility and coverage are due, in part, to innovative, money-saving ideas like this one. The change from Aetna Rx to OptumRx was explained fully in a letter sent to Local 79 members in November of 2015.

The key points are as follows:

- New OptumRx prescription ID cards were mailed to you in 2015 and should be used for all prescription drug purchases after January 1, 2016. Members should have received new Aetna ID cards in January. If you did not receive these cards, continue to use your old Aetna card for medical benefits. Once you have received the new Aetna ID card, destroy the old Aetna ID card.
- Some specific drugs that were formerly available will be excluded from coverage, but there will always be at least one covered alternative drug that is in the same therapeutic class as the excluded drug. You may wish to speak to your doctor about transitioning to one of the covered alternative drugs.



If you have any questions regarding the new plan or if you did not receive new cards from Aetna or OptumRX, please call the Trust Funds office at 212-452-9700.



IDNYC

FREE IDENTIFICATION CARDS FOR ALL NEW YORK CITY RESIDENTS PROVIDE NUMEROUS BENEFITS

All Local 79 members and their family members (14 years of age and older) who live in New York City are eligible to get IDNYC, the free identification card for all New York City residents. As a government-issued photo identification card, IDNYC secures access to City services that come from having recognized identification. IDNYC benefits every city resident, including the most vulnerable communities—the homeless, youth, the elderly, undocumented immigrants, the formerly incarcerated and others who may have difficulty obtaining other government-issued ID. Aside from providing all-important access to many City services and programs, IDNYC also provides a series of benefits to cardholders, including a free one-year membership at many of the City's leading museums, zoos, concert halls, and botanical gardens.

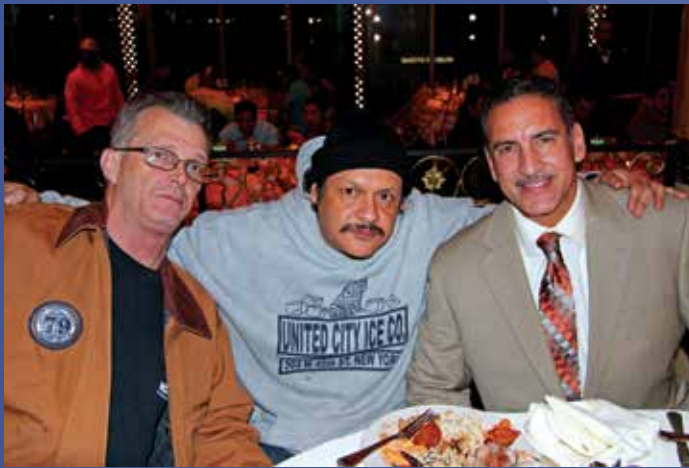
For information about how to obtain your IDNYC, see the post at www.local79.org.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR DISMISSES Local 79 Election Complaint

In a letter dated February 23, 2016, the United States Department of Labor dismissed in its entirety a complaint filed by four members of the opposition slate who had lost in the June 24, 2015 Local 79 Officer elections. Their complaint had alleged three violations concerning the manner in which Local 79 conducted the election. The Department of Labor's February 23, 2016 letter stated that the Department had conducted an investigation into each of the allegations of misconduct and had found no violation of Title IV of the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act. The letter ends by stating "the office has closed the file on this matter."



Local 79 Retirees
Annual Retiree Holiday Party
at Russo's On The Bay



Local 79 Members
Annual Holiday Party
at Terrace on the Park

VICTORY FOR 9/11 FIRST RESPONDERS AS ZADROGA ACT IS REAUTHORIZED

Thanks to the advocacy carried out by many parties, including Local 79 members, the MTDCPAC, LiUNA members across the country, New York Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, New York Representative Carolyn Maloney, and others, the Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act has been extended to provide healthcare coverage for the next 75 years to first responders and others who suffer from lingering effects from the 9/11 attacks and the cleanup following the attacks. In addition, Congress renewed the Victims Compensation Fund for five years. The Fund provides financial assistance to aid ailing first responders who are too sick to work.

Local 79 Business Manager Mike Prohaska said: "It is shameful that the reauthorization of the Zadroga Act, which should not have been controversial, took years. First responders, members of LiUNA and its affiliates, and others, had to make hundreds of trips to Washington to lobby Congress. Fortunately, the efforts of all of these people bore fruit, and first responders and others will continue to be provided the healthcare and financial support they deserve for their heroic efforts."





WOMAN OF THE YEAR



FELICIA MCINTOSH

At Local 79's March 2nd general membership meeting, Local 79 member Felicia McIntosh was honored as Local 79's 2015 Woman of the Year. At the meeting, Local 79 Business Manager Mike Prohaska said that Ms. McIntosh had never refused a job since 2000, had always attended union meetings, and had showed her support for the union by going to rallies and participating in numerous union events. Prohaska added that "Ms. McIntosh is a dedicated, hard-working, and engaged member who should provide inspiration to all Laborers."

Jobsite Visits

CONNECTING THE MEMBERS WITH THEIR UNION

On Thursday, February 25, members of Local 79's Executive Board made a job site visit to the New York-Presbyterian Hospital building under construction on York Avenue between 68th and 69th Street in Manhattan. Dozens of Laborers working at the site enjoyed lunch and spoke with members of the Executive Board and representatives from Greater New York LECET. Local 79 President Kenny Brancaccio, who spoke and assisted in giving out neck warmers to the assembled Laborers, said "I take a lot of pleasure in visiting job sites. To go throughout the boroughs and visit Laborers on the job provides a constant reminder that Local 79 members play an instrumental role in building the great city of New York."

MIEMBROS DEL LOCAL 79 SE MOVILIZAN PARA EXIGIR VIVIENDAS CONSTRUIDAS POR LA UNION Y ASEQUIBLES REALES

El 23 de febrero, casi cien miembros del Local 79 se concentraron frente a City Hall Park junto con centenares de miembros de Real Affordability for All (RAFA)/ (Asequibilidad Real para Todos), una coalición de base amplia que se opone al plan de vivienda asequible del alcalde de Blasio. Muchos oradores, entre ellos Gary LaBarbera, presidente del Consejo de Oficios de la Edificación y la Construcción, protestaron el plan del alcalde de rezonificar una serie de vecindarios de Nueva York. Su plan, que incluye una disposición llamada Alojamiento Incluyente Obligatorio (Mandatory Inclusionary Housing (MIH)), no contiene garantías de que las viviendas asequibles sean

construidas por el sindicato. Al mismo tiempo, los residentes de bajos ingresos de los vecindarios que se proponen para la rezonificación no cumplirán las condiciones de ingresos para vivienda asequible y probablemente sean expulsados de sus vecindarios debido a las rentas más altas que normalmente acompañan a las rezonificaciones. "El plan de vivienda asequible del alcalde es profundamente defectuoso", dijo Chaz Rynkiewicz, Director de Organización del Local 79. "Insto a todos a visitar el sitio web Building Blocks NYC (www.buildingblocksnyc.com) para leer más sobre la forma en que este plan causaría daños irreparables a los trabajadores y residentes de la ciudad de Nueva York."

MENSAJE DEL GERENTE COMERCIAL MIKE PROHASKA

Espero que todos ustedes hayan tenido una temporada de fiestas felices, saludables y pacíficas.

Quiero aprovechar esta oportunidad para decir unas palabras acerca de la solidez y reputación del Local 79. Como muchos de ustedes ya saben, el 15 de enero de 2016 el Fondo de Entrenamiento/Training Fund realizó una sesión en línea de reclutamiento de aprendices. En las semanas precedentes al registro en línea, el sitio web del Local 79 registró un aumento de 10 veces en la cantidad de visitantes que acudieron a la página de aprendizaje. El día del reclutamiento en línea, los 1000 espacios de entrevistas disponibles se llenaron en el tiempo récord de un minuto y 42 segundos. En la ciudad de Nueva York hay miles y miles de personas que desean afiliarse al Local 79, el sindicato que todos ustedes construyeron y siguen construyendo. El Local 79 recientemente contrató dos organizadores para que trabajen en el nuevo Programa de Pasantes/Organizing Internship Program. Durante el año, esto ayudará al Local 79 a reforzar nuestros esfuerzos de organización en todos los sectores. Esto garantizará el crecimiento del Local 79 y, con este crecimiento, podremos ofrecer más oportunidades de aprendizaje para los numerosos trabajadores cualificados que desean afiliarse a nuestro sindicato.

Como leerán en este boletín, este es el último boletín que la membresía general recibirá por correo. (Los jubilados seguirán recibiendo una publicación impresa dos veces al año). Para mantener todo lo que está sucediendo en el Local, aliento firmemente a todos los miembros a que visiten la página

Facebook del local 79 y comiencen a explorar y usar las numerosas funciones ofrecidas por el sitio web del Local 79 (www.local79.org).

El personal del Local 79 ha trabajado mucho y muy duro para lograr que nuestro sitio web sea fácil de usar para todos los miembros y que tengan acceso a toda la información que estos necesitan, incluidas las noticias y los eventos al día del local 79, información de contacto, una sección dedicada a los servicios para miembros, y mucho más. Y, como también leerán en este boletín, acabamos de añadir un Portal para Miembros a la página de inicio del sitio web del Local 79. Cuando los miembros ingresan a este portal, son transportados a **eLocal**, una aplicación que permite que los miembros paguen sus cuotas en línea y mucho, mucho más. **eLocal**, que está abierto las 24 horas al día, brinda a los miembros una manera muy conveniente de pagar sus cuotas y acceder a su información personal y actualizarla. Espero que muchos y muchos miembros aprovechen las ventajas de este nuevo servicio.

Los saluda fraternalmente,



Mike Prohaska



VICTORIA PARA LOS PRIMEROS RESPONDEDORES DE 9/11 AL REAUTORIZARSE LA LEY ZADROGA



Gracias al apoyo realizado por numerosas partes, incluidos los miembros del Local 79, MTDCPAC, los miembros de LiUNA de todo el país, la Senadora por Nueva York, Kirsten Gillibrand, la Representante de Nueva York, Carolyn Maloney, y otros, la Ley Zadroga de Salud y Compensación por el 9/11 se ha prorrogado a fin de proporcionar cobertura de atención de salud durante los próximos 75 años a los primeros respondedores y otros que sufren de los efectos prolongados de los ataques del 9/11 y de la limpieza subsiguiente. Además, el Congreso renovó el Fondo de Compensación de Víctimas por cinco años. El Fondo provee asistencia financiera para ayudar a primeros

respondedores que están demasiado enfermos como para poder trabajar.

Mike Prohaska, el gerente comercial del Local 79, dijo: "Es vergonzoso que la reautorización de la ley Zadroga, que nunca debió ser controversial, haya llevado años. Los primeros respondedores, miembros de LiUNA y sus afiliadas, y otros, tuvieron que hacer centenares de viajes a Washington para impulsar su caso ante el Congreso. Afortunadamente, los esfuerzos de todas estas personas resultaron fructíferos, y los primeros respondedores y otros seguirán teniendo la protección de atención de salud y del apoyo financiero que se merecen por sus heroicos esfuerzos."

eLocal



LOS MIEMBROS YA PUEDEN PAGAR SUS CUOTAS EN LÍNEA

El Local 79 se complace en anunciar el lanzamiento de eLocal, que permite que los miembros paguen sus cuotas en línea, además de verificar sus historiales de cursos y de participación, y sus certificados, y actualizar su información personal. Todos los miembros del Local 79 deben haber recibido recientemente una carta con instrucciones detalladas y un "código de acceso" individual que les permite crear una cuenta segura en línea. Una vez creada la cuenta, el acceso a eLocal es rápido y fácil. "La Junta Ejecutiva del Local 79 trabajó arduamente para crear este nuevo beneficio para sus miembros, dijo el Secretario-Tesorero del Local 79 George Zecca. "Este es un gran salto hacia adelante. Espero que la mayoría de nuestros miembros se registren y aprovechen las numerosas funciones fáciles de usar de eLocal."



Si tiene un problema para registrarse, llame a Ursula a teléfono (212-465-7911) para asistencia.

LEARN MORE > www.local79.org

EL DEPARTAMENTO DE TRABAJO DESESTIMA

LA QUEJA DEL LOCAL 79 SOBRE LAS ELECCIONES

En una carta con fecha de 23 de febrero de 2016, el Departamento de Trabajo de los Estados Unidos desestimó íntegramente una queja presentada por cuatro miembros de la lista de candidatos de oposición que habían perdido en las elecciones de Oficiales del Local 79 el 24 de junio de 2015. Su queja presuntamente revelaba tres violaciones relacionadas con la manera en que el Local 79 llevó a cabo las elecciones. La carta del Departamento de Trabajo del 23 de febrero de 2016 decía que el Departamento había realizado una investigación de cada una de las alegaciones de mala conducta y no había encontrado violaciones del Título IV de la Ley de Notificación y Divulgación de Información Obrero-Patronal. La carta concluye declarando que "el Departamento ha cerrado el expediente sobre este asunto."





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UPCOMING EVENTS 2016

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

APRIL 15 - Buses depart at 8am
Retiree Outing*
Tropicana Casino, Atlantic City

APRIL 20 at 5pm
General Membership Meeting
St. Vartan Church, 630 2nd Avenue

MAY 12 at Noon
Retiree Spring Luncheon*
Marina del Rey

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

MAY 21 at 11am
20th Anniversary/Health Fair
Coleman Country Day Camp
More info at www.local79.org

** RSVP with Melissa Siciliano to attend these events*



ALL THE NEWS YOU CAN USE www.local79.org

THIS IS THE FINAL PRINT EDITION OF THE LOCAL 79 NEWSLETTER.

The news, photos, and upcoming events that you have come to expect in the newsletter will now be available exclusively at Local 79's website at www.local79.org. This is also where members will access eLocal, the new application that allows members to pay their dues online and much more..

RETIREEES: Twice a year, Local 79 will produce a special printed piece that will feature upcoming events, photos, and Local news relevant to retirees.