



**Construction & General Building
Laborers' Local 79**
131 W 33rd Street, 7th Floor
New York, NY 10001
Phone: 212-465-7900 Fax: 212-465-7903



RETIREE NEWSLETTER | **SUMMER 2021**

LOCAL 79 NEWS

CONSTRUCTION & GENERAL BUILDING LABORERS



UPCOMING EVENTS

September 12 at 8am
9/11 Commemorative March
North Moore & Greenwich Street

September 14 at 5pm
General Membership Meeting
St. Vartan Church, 630 2nd Avenue

December 2 at 12pm
Retiree Holiday Party
Russo's on the Bay, Howard Beach

We intend to go forward with planned in-person meetings and future retiree events if allowed by government or venue regulations. Further updates will be posted on our website and all events remain subject to change.

To RSVP, call 212-465-7976.

www.local79.org



LANDMARK AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH GILBANE BUILDING CO.

WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THAT AN AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED WITH GILBANE BUILDING COMPANY FOR future work in New York City. "After many years of campaigning, this agreement is thanks to the efforts of all those that have been in the streets fighting for our union over the years," said Vice President Chaz Rynkiewicz. Gilbane has been one of the largest non-union contractors in New York City, but our staff will continue to be vigilant in enforcing our contract and continuing to organize.

THE CLEAN SLATE WINS!

Mike Prohaska Re-Elected as Business Manager

THE ENTIRE CLEAN SLATE WAS RE-ELECTED TO LOCAL 79'S EXECUTIVE BOARD DURING THE 2021 ELECTION CYCLE. MIKE PROHASKA OVERWHELMINGLY WON THE race for Business Manager by a 72% to 28% margin, the second largest victory in our union's history. All other members of The Clean Slate were re-elected to their respective positions on the Executive Board: President John Norbury, Vice President Chaz Rynkiewicz, Secretary-Treasurer Anthony Vita, Recording Secretary Wendy Webb, Sergeant-at-Arms Bernard Callegari, Executive Board members Luis Montalvo and Barrie Smith, Auditors Anthony Williamson, Kenny Robinson and Steve Andujar. "The Clean Slate represents the hard work and dedication required to be a union laborer. I know the entire Executive Board is honored to serve the Local 79 membership and we promise to work tirelessly to strengthen and protect our union from all with ill intent," said Business Manager Mike Prohaska. Thank you Kris Kohler, Dave Bolger and Dave Melton for serving our union as judges.

20th Anniversary of September 11

In honor of the victims of the World Trade Center attacks and all response workers who answered the call to help, Local 79 will be taking part in a Commemorative March of the 9/11 Recovery Workers on Sunday, September 12th at 8am. The registration fee is \$10 for members who use our promo code LOCAL79 and all donations will be matched up to \$100. The fundraising will go to HEART 9/11, a 100% volunteer organization of union workers who first came together in 2001 and continue to respond to those in need around the country and world.

LEARN MORE > local79.org/911march

DUES NEWS
Member Dues: \$37/month
Retiree Dues: \$8/month

REMINDER: Dues payments must not go over two months without being paid or the member will be suspended.

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 and provide their book number to pay by credit card.

MAKE SURE TO UPDATE
YOUR CONTACT INFO

If you change your address, phone or email, contact the union hall to update our system by calling 212-465-7912. Remember to also update changes to your contact information with the trust funds by calling 212-452-9700 and pressing 3 for the eligibility department.

TRUST FUNDS SUMMARY

Members should feel secure knowing the Annuity Fund's net return last year was 9.99%, the Pension Fund increased its funding from 100.2% to 101.4% and the Medical/Welfare Fund has approximately two years in reserves. The Trust Funds will continue to maintain and improve comprehensive benefits for members while safeguarding our investments.

LOCAL 79 EXECUTIVE BOARD

- Mike Prohaska, Business Manager
- John Norbury, President
- Chaz Rynkiewicz, Vice President
- Anthony Vita, Secretary-Treasurer
- Wendy Webb, Recording Secretary
- Bernard Callegari, Sergeant-at-Arms
- Luis Montalvo, Executive Board member
- Barrie Smith, Executive Board member
- Anthony Williamson, Auditor
- Kenneth Robinson Jr., Auditor
- Steve Andujar, Auditor

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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

A lot has been accomplished in the last six months since my last letter, so I will get straight to business. Our out-of-work list as of July was below 200 which is the lowest for our union in my memory. This means that 98% of our membership is working and continuing to provide for their families.

Our hours are now back to record-breaking, pre-pandemic levels and members working under a BCA contract can expect a \$1.50 raise in January. Our other contracts for interior demolition and masonry are still under negotiation, but we are confident of reaching a positive agreement. All contracts should also include a 50 cent raise in vacation pay. I assure all of you that our negotiating team, which includes myself, Bobby Bonanza, Mike Hellstrom, Anthony Vita and Chaz Rynkiewicz, are all fully committed to negotiating the best deal for our membership.

I was always confident that our union would grow stronger out of the pandemic and that has continued to be the case. In addition to our monumental agreement with Gilbane, we have also signed further agreements in the affordable housing industry with Slate Property Group and for further RAD work on NYCHA developments, along with an agreement with Gravity Construction Group which has a significant pipeline of work with the School Construction Authority. We also are in confidential talks with some major industry players which the membership will be updated about at future union meetings.

All the staff at the hall, trust funds and school stepped up to make sure our membership continued to receive necessary services despite the unprecedented difficulties we faced. The trust funds processed over 4,000 hardship applications last year and extended medical coverage to an additional 850 members due to a temporary 300-hour credit. The grievance department led by Jasmine Perdomo won a \$1 million case, the largest ever, and the department has now won over \$26 million since it was first created by Secretary-Treasurer Anthony Vita.

The union hall will be going back to normal operations starting after Labor Day on September 7th and we are planning to get back to in-person union meetings at St. Vartan's Church. We continue to monitor that we act in accordance with all government guidelines and will continue to update you with any changes.

We still are in an unprecedented environment. I thank all of you for keeping faith in our union. Many of you received assistance with scheduling a vaccine in the Spring, but if some of you still need help scheduling an appointment for a vaccine or booster shot, you can call Melissa at 212-465-7976.

In solidarity,

Michael Prohaska

LiUNA!
Feel the Power



Bipartisan
Infrastructure
Deal Reached in
U.S. Senate

LiUNA has been at the forefront of fighting for a bipartisan infrastructure deal that will build our country back stronger than ever. This potential agreement brings the largest government investment in new construction in decades, bringing needed repairs to our country's essential infrastructure and creating

millions of good-paying, union jobs. In August, the U.S. Senate passed the "Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act" by a vote of 69-30 and now our union is mobilizing to make sure the House of Representatives passes the bill. Local 79 members attended a townhall of Hakeem Jefferies, the top-ranking New York congressional leader, and successfully advocated for the creation of good union jobs. "We are proud to be part of a movement of LiUNA members across the country that will keep pressure on politicians of all political stripes until we ensure



successful passage," said President John Norbury who sits on the Mason Tenders PAC Board. "This shows your votes can make a real difference." If you want to get more involved in the campaign, call the Organizing Department at 212-465-7912.

LOCAL 79 RETIREE COUNCIL



PHIL REALMUTO



JUAN MAZYLMIAN



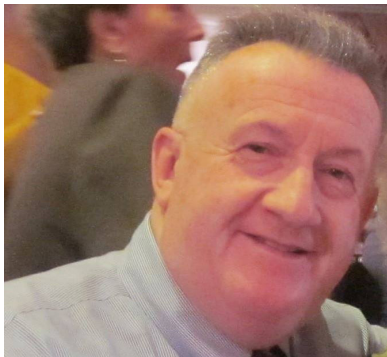
SAL PAGANO



LEO OGNIBENE



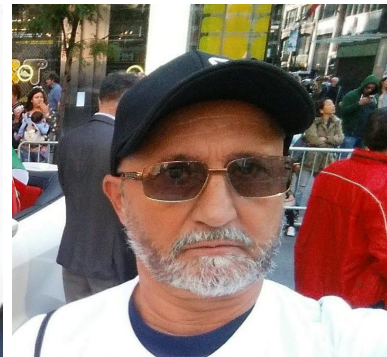
MARLON ALSTON



JAMES HEGARTY



WILLIAM STRONG



FIL ORTIZ

Our union is proud of the passion and dedication of our retirees. You all represent the history and heritage of Local 79 and we remain grateful for your many contributions to our union. We are proud to announce the leadership positions on our Retiree Council: Golden Year member Phil Realmuto is President, former

in-house business agent Juan Mazylmian is Vice President, former business agent James Hegarty is Secretary-Treasurer and former Shop Steward Marlon Alston is Recording Secretary. Also serving on the Council is Sal Pagano, Leo Ognibene, Fil Ortiz and William Strong. The first retiree event of 2021 was

this summer at Citi Field for a Mets game. The Council is actively planning future events including a Holiday Party at Russo's on the Bay in December. "Local 79 retirees are the best out there. We wish all of you the best of health and look forward to seeing you all in person as soon as possible," said Secretary-Treasurer Anthony Vita.