



**Construction & General Building
Laborers' Local 79**
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RETIREE NEWSLETTER | SUMMER 2018

LOCAL 79 NEWS

CONSTRUCTION & GENERAL BUILDING LABORERS



UPCOMING EVENTS 2018

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

September 8 at 10am
NYC Labor Day Parade
45th Street & 6th Ave, Manhattan

September 19 at 5pm
General Membership Meeting
St. Vartan Church, 630 2nd Avenue

September 21 at 12pm
Retiree Outing: 'A Day at the Races'
Belmont Racetrack, Long Island*

October 24 at 5pm
General Membership Meeting
St. Vartan Church, 630 2nd Avenue

December 6 at 12pm
Retiree Holiday Party
Russo's On The Bay, Queens*

* RSVP with Melissa Siciliano to attend these events.

www.local79.org



UNION CONSTRUCTION WORKERS TAKE OVER TIMES SQUARE

**OVER TEN THOUSAND IN THE "COUNT ME IN" MOVEMENT
JOINED IN SOLIDARITY TO SAY, "NYC IS A UNION TOWN!"**

Uniting against corporate greed, NYC Building Trades members rallied together to demonstrate their collective power and strength. The rally was part of a recurring series of solidarity demonstrations every Tuesday and Thursday that are organized by rank-and-file members. Local 79 members continue to be on the frontlines in the fight for union rights. "We would not be where we are today without the battles fought by those before us," said Director of Organizing Chaz Rynkiewicz. "Our greatest strength comes from the activism of all our members. We will not back down. We will win."

MEMBERS RE-ELECT CLEAN SLATE ENTIRE E-BOARD UNANIMOUSLY NOMINATED

ALL 11 MEMBERS OF THE CLEAN SLATE WERE UNANIMOUSLY RE-ELECTED TO LOCAL 79'S EXECUTIVE BOARD AT THE NOMINATION MEETING ON MAY 2ND. THE E-BOARD THANKS all members for their unprecedented support of The Clean Slate in its 8th consecutive victory. Looking to build on its past successes, the E-Board is determined to continue expanding our union's power as the largest construction Laborers Local in the country. Business Manager Mike Prohaska has been a member of the E-Board and The Clean Slate since the inception of Local 79 and is now our longest serving Business Manager. Reflecting upon his time as a Laborer, Prohaska concluded, "I know no greater honor than being a laborer for the last 40 years. I have never forgotten and will never forget where I came from. We are a union of leaders and I will never stop fighting to make sure Local 79 remains a standard-setter in our industry." Also re-elected to their positions were Local 79 President Kenneth Brancaccio, Vice President John Norbury, Secretary-Treasurer George Zecca, Recording Secretary Joe Cestaro, Sergeant-at-Arms Chaz Rynkiewicz, Executive Board Members Anthony Vita and Jose Andino, Auditors Anthony Williamson, Barrie Smith and Luis Montalvo. Thank you to Jeremy Delgado, Kris Kohler and Mickey Kelly for their service as election judges.

Call an Experienced Nurse to Improve Your Health Care

The Medical Fund agreed with Aetna to make available its In Touch Care program for all members and their families. The new program allows you to call an experienced nurse to learn more about any health condition, coordinate your care and develop a personal plan tailored to your health goals. This is an additional resource not intended to interfere with your relationship with your doctors. If you have not already been contacted, access this FREE and CONFIDENTIAL program by calling Aetna at 877-243-2752.

LEARN MORE > www.aetna.com

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.

PAY DUES TO RECEIVE BENEFITS!

All Local 79 Retirees are reminded that they must pay their monthly dues in order to receive their welfare benefits from the Trust Funds. If you have any questions about your status, please contact the Dues Department.

TRUST FUNDS SUMMARY

Last year, the union saw its Annuity Fund grow 8.04% in interest, compared to 5.05% the previous year. Members also should feel secure knowing that their Pension Fund is currently 107.1% funded and that our Medical/Welfare Fund has over 24 months in reserves.

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

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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

It has been a tough year for organized labor in our country. Despite the onslaught of attacks against workers, Local 79 stands strong and is fighting back.

Not only have we concluded successful negotiations with the Building Contractors Association (BCA) and the Independent Demolition Contractors Association (IDCA), but our out-of-work list is now at an all-time low. Local 79 members worked on average a million hours a month this year. It will be close, but we are now on pace to beat our record numbers from two years ago.

All this success, however, comes during a pivotal time for the labor movement in our country. As many of you know, Janus vs. AFSCME, the recent anti-labor ruling by the Supreme Court, has made open shop, or as we call it "broken shop," a legal fact for public sector unions across our country. We are not fooled for a second by this so called "right-to-work." The Janus decision is a product of a decades-long campaign of corporate billionaires to break unions and make sure Americans work for less wages with fewer benefits.

The ruling is unacceptable and a direct attack on American workers. The future looks bleak for our nation's highest judicial body as its most recent nominee has a long history of anti-labor decisions. We continue to stand arm in arm with our union brothers and sisters, because an attack on one of us is an attack on all of us.

These are crazy times, but Local 79 is more than prepared to overcome any challenge ahead. Activism is in our DNA. We know the power of collective action is our greatest strength. I have no doubt that we will continue to be leaders in the NYC labor movement.

Right now the "Count Me In" movement is developing into one of the most historic campaigns ever. I will never forget when thousands of Building Trades members took over Times Square for blocks during my speech at a "Count Me In" rally on April 4th. The energy and passion in the crowd that day was electric. Our spirit of activism and solidarity has continued to grow stronger. I told the crowd then and I will repeat it again: *There is no such thing as open shop. There is only a union shop or a non-union shop. The only things in the middle of the road are white lines and dead animals.*

The #CountMeIn movement of union construction workers began in NYC, but it is part of a larger fight for the future of our country. Local 79 has never turned away from a fight. We are ready, willing and up for any challenge. We will not retreat. We will not surrender.

In solidarity,



Mike Prohaska



Governor Cuomo says: "YOU CAN COUNT ME IN!"

At a rally with tens of thousands of union construction workers, the NYC Building Trades Council announced its unanimous endorsement of Andrew Cuomo for Governor. During his acceptance speech, Governor Cuomo declared to the crowd that "Your fight is my fight. You can COUNT ME IN to stand with the hardworking New Yorkers that build this city!"

LiUNA NY, a coalition of all LiUNA locals in our state, also proudly endorsed Tish James for New York Attorney General. A lifelong fighter for worker rights and the current NYC Public Advocate, Tish was the first politician to stand in solidarity with the #CountMeIn Movement on an early Thursday morning.

Other politicians have also come out to say "Count Me In!" – including Comptroller Scott Stringer and City Council members Francisco Moya, Helen Rosenthal and Donovan Richards.



No matter what, our membership understands that we must be the masters of our own fate. We mobilize because we know the union way-of-life is worth it.

Local 79 encourages all members to get involved in their community boards and lobby their local politicians. If interested in participating more, call Angela in our Market Development Department at 212-465-7912.

Day of Family Fun at Health Fair

Despite forecasts of heavy rain, the weather cleared up and over five hundred members and their families had a great day at Coleman Country Day Camp. All at the fair were able to participate in a wide range of activities and receive free health screenings courtesy of the NY State Laborers Health and Safety Fund. In addition, all proceeds raised money for a great cause, the kids at St. Mary's Children Hospital.



As the event concluded, President Kenneth Brancaccio said: "Every day all of us work hard to provide a better life for our families, so it's wonderful to be able to have special days like this when our greater union family is able to come together and celebrate all our hard work and accomplishments." The next Health Fair is scheduled for 2020 and will continue to be a great Local 79 tradition.



RETIREE SPOTLIGHT



(Below) Local 79 retiree and former Business Manager John Delgado has volunteered with fellow union members since last year to help rebuild Puerto Rico following the devastation of Hurricane Maria.



(Left & Above) Local 79 Retirees enjoyed coming together for the annual Spring Luncheon at Marina Del Rey. The Executive Board is thankful for retirees' continued commitment to our union.



LiUNA!
Feel the Power