



**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 | WINTER 2020

LOCAL 79 NEWS

CONSTRUCTION & GENERAL BUILDING LABORERS



*Look Inside to See
Before and After
Photos of Our New
Union Hall*

UPCOMING EVENTS 2020

Call Melissa Siciliano at
212-465-7976 to RSVP

March 20 at 8am
Sands Casino & Resort
77 Sands Blvd, Bethlehem, PA

April 17 at 8am
Atlantic City Casino & Resort
2831 Boardwalk, Atlantic City, NJ

May 15 at 12pm
Retiree Spring Luncheon
Marina del Rey, Bronx, NY

June 10 at 1pm
Mets Baseball Outing
Citi Field, Queens, NY

July 17 at 8am
Atlantic City Casino & Resort
2831 Boardwalk, Atlantic City, NJ



**Business Manager Mike Prohaska Honored
with "Leader of Labor" Award**
**IN RECOGNITION OF DECADES OF LEADERSHIP AS A CHAMPION
OF WORKERS' RIGHTS, BUSINESS MANAGER MIKE PROHASKA**
was honored this year with an inaugural "Leader of Labor" Award from Schneps Media, the largest publisher of local NYC newspapers. Attending the event and congratulating Mike were Public Advocate Jumaane Williams and Borough Presidents Melinda Katz, Eric Adams and Ruben Diaz Jr. "This honor is a true testament to the power and prestige of Local 79 in New York City," said Mike after receiving the award. "Through the dedication and solidarity of all our members, our reputation as a union powerhouse in this city is better than ever."

NEW UNION HALL IS OFFICIALLY COMPLETED

**LOCAL 79 HAS OFFICIALLY MOVED INTO OUR
NEW UNION HALL ON THE 7TH FLOOR OF 131 W
33RD STREET. THE PROJECT WAS COMPLETED**
with 100% union labor and Turner Construction was the general contractor. Thank you to everyone whose hard work created a new Class A space for our now over 10,000 members. "This was a great investment for our union to own a prime piece of NYC real estate. We have invested in top-quality technology that will ensure our union is well-prepared for the future," said Secretary-Treasurer Kenneth Brancaccio. The new space is a short walk from the Mason Tenders Trust Funds and is located in a central transportation hub between Herald Square and Penn Station.

Send Correspondence to Our New Address!

Our new union hall address is:
Laborers Local 79
131 W 33rd Street, 7th Fl
New York, NY 10001

This is the new mailing address to send your dues payments, updated address and phone number, death certificate of a spouse or changes to your job referral form. We encourage you to call 212-465-7900 for any questions you may have. Additionally, any business regarding your annuity, medical and pension should be referred to the Mason Tenders Trust Funds, which you can call at 212-452-9700 and is still located at 520 8th Ave, St. 600 New York, NY 10018.

LEARN MORE > www.local79.org

www.local79.org

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.

The Local 79 Executive Board received a variance from LiUNA International to freeze dues for the year 2020.

Make Sure to Exercise Your Right to Vote!

We encourage every member to check their voter registration status by calling Ari at 646-721-1235 or by visiting www.bit.ly/79voter. Don't forget all the sacrifices those before us have made in order to protect our right to vote and make sure organized labor's voice is heard.

TRUST FUNDS SUMMARY

Members should feel secure knowing that their Pension Fund was last reported as 103.1% funded and that our Medical/Welfare Fund had approximately 24 months in reserves. The Annuity Fund is also projected to have positive returns and an annual statement will be going out to all participants in the Spring. The trustees continue to focus on improving benefits for the membership.

LOCAL 79 EXECUTIVE BOARD

- Mike Prohaska, Business Manager
- Anthony Vita, President
- John Norbury, Vice President
- Kenneth Brancaccio, Secretary-Treasurer
- Joe Cestaro, Recording Secretary
- Barrie Smith, Sergeant-at-Arms
- Chaz Rynkiewicz, Executive Board Member
- Jose Andino, Executive Board Member
- Luis Montalvo, Auditor
- Anthony Williamson, Auditor
- Kenneth Robinson Jr., 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

I may sound like a broken record, but I am again happy to report that we have had another record-breaking year for hours worked, breaking last year's record by about 400,000 hours.

The economy seems to be holding steady, but it is the tireless work of all our members and staff which made last year our most productive yet. The new union hall is a testament to our growing strength, and I look forward to all of you coming to see it. After a yearlong campaign, our union signed three of the largest non-union contractors in the commercial industry. Our signatory contractors already were the dominant force in the industry, but we refused to allow smaller contractors to pick and choose when they use union labor. We said enough is enough. Our President Anthony Vita was a bulldog in negotiations and coordinated with Chaz Rynkiewicz, Executive Board Member & Market Development Director, to hold targeted actions throughout the city.

As our union continues to organize contractors to maintain our market share in the private sector, we also have focused on the public sector to make sure construction funded with taxpayer dollars are tied to prevailing wages that are set to the area-standard by our collective-bargaining agreement. We as part of the New York City Building Trades just signed a massive project-labor agreement for over \$1 billion in future work with DASNY, a New York State public finance and construction authority, and we are on the precipice of signing a monumental agreement with the City of New York for tens of billions of dollars in 100% Building Trades work. In particular, I want to highlight the continued effort of our rank-and-file members in the Bronx Brigade that have successfully convinced politicians to publicly support prevailing wage standards. Most recently, State Senator Luis Sepulveda announced his support for our proposal after months of engagement and rallies to educate him on our vision of wage justice for NYC construction workers.

Despite all our innovative organizing of the public sector, hanging over our heads is a catastrophic ruling by the federal government to change the calculation of prevailing wage, which is the legally-required wage on taxpayer-funded public projects. Thanks to a publicly reported leaked memo¹ from the Special Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy, we can now expect prevailing wage to be the next target if President Trump is re-elected. If prevailing wage is weakened, NYC construction laborers on public projects could have their pay cut by more than half and receive \$26.42 in total pay including benefits.

As we continue to grow and strengthen our union, we will never forget that there are always those trying to attack us. We will remain ever vigilant and will always fight together to protect our union.

In solidarity,



LiUNA!
Feel the Power

¹ <https://politi.co/2uu812U>

RETIREE HOLIDAY PARTY



ABOVE: Congratulations to Giuseppe Valenti on becoming our newest 50-year member.

MEMBERS COME TOGETHER TO OVERCOME ADDICTION

Beginning last year, Local 79's Membership Assistance Program (MAP) launched an anonymous monthly Recovery Support Group Meeting for those recovering from addiction. MAP has existed for over 15 years as a member-led network that provided support for Local 79 members to get confidential assistance and crisis intervention services. The Recovery Support Group Meeting allows a space for longstanding and new members to come together to support one another and plan outreach to other members needing support. "I am proud of the strong community Local 79 has created to support our fellow brothers and sisters, but drug and alcohol abuse continues to be a national epidemic that has taken the lives of too many of our loved ones," said MAP founder and Executive Board Member Chaz Rynkiewicz. If any active or retired member is interested in attending the meeting on the first Tuesday of every month, call Bernard Callegari at 646-265-7762.

BEFORE



AFTER

