NEW ADDITIONS TO THE MEDICAL PLAN!
The Mason Tenders Welfare Fund no longer will require copayment for in-network outpatient mental health and substance abuse services. The fund also expanded its coverage to include treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorder. Business Manager Mike Prohaska added, “I am proud that our welfare fund continually strives to improve the services provided to our members. Not only do our individual members have access to these medical benefits, but so do their families.” If you seek confidential assistance with substance abuse services, contact Local 79’s Membership Assistance Program at 646-265-5674.

BUILDING TRADES RALLY TOGETHER IN SOLIDARITY

THOUSANDS OF BUILDING TRADES MEMBERS UNITED TOGETHER IN NOVEMBER TO SHOW THEIR UNION SOLIDARITY. THE “COUNT ME IN!” MOVEMENT HAS GENERATED A TIDAL WAVE OF ORGANIZING energy throughout the city. Gary LaBarbera, President of the Building Trades, and other Business Managers rallied rank-and-file members against the greed of NYC developers. Business Manager Bobby Bonanza of the Mason Tenders District Council reminded the crowd that the strength of our unions lies in the activism of our membership. Our own Business Manager Mike Prohaska gave the crowd a history lesson on the meaning of solidarity and vowed that the union movement will never stop fighting. All in attendance agreed with the refrain, “Open Shop is a Broken Shop.”

LOCAL 79 MEMBERS RESPOND TO THOSE IN NEED ACROSS THE COUNTRY

LOCAL 79 MEMBERS CONTINUED A LONG TRADITION OF OUR UNION GIVING BACK TO COMMUNITIES IN NEED. In the aftermath of hurricanes wreacking havoc across our country, Local 79 members were first-responders to natural disasters in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico. Through the Heart 9/11 initiative, union members rebuilt homes and revitalized key infrastructure. In Texas, members repaired the home of a LIUNA Local 154 retiree and Purple Heart Veteran. In Puerto Rico, Local 79 and other Eastern Region members provided emergency relief in areas where many of our members have family. Meanwhile, hundreds of Local 79 members and their families walked across the Coney Island Boardwalk in support of St. Mary’s Children Hospital, raising $15,000 for the day and over $420,000 in total since fundraising began.

UPCOMING EVENTS 2018
Call Melissa Siciliano at 212-465-7976 to RSVP

March 16 at 8am
Sands Casino & Resort
77 Sands Blvd, Bethlehem, PA

April 20 at 8am
Tropicana Casino & Resort
2831 Boardwalk, Atlantic City, NJ

May 3 at 11am
Baseball Outing
Citi Field, Queens, NY

May 11 at 12pm
Retiree Spring Luncheon
Marina del Rey, Bronx, NY

May 12 at 11am
Health Fair
Coleman Day Camp, Merrick, NY

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www.local79.org
MESSAGE FROM BUSINESS MANAGER MIKE PROHASKA

I always look forward to celebrating the many accomplishments of our great local and remembering our many successes.

Our membership worked 11.7 million hours in 2017. Every member in Local 79 always does their part and that is why we continue to be the powerhouse that we are. On a sadder note, I regret to inform you that Dr. James Melius, best known as Dr. Jim, passed away on January 10th. A true working-class hero, Dr. Jim was a medical expert that supervised the medical care of first responders after the World Trade Center attacks. I am proud to have been appointed to serve as a trustee by LiUNA General Secretary-Treasurer Armand Sabatini on the New York State Laborers Tri-Funds while Dr. Jim was an administrator there. He was a true friend to both me and the labor movement, and his legacy will surely live on.

In an important development, the executive board and I are proud to announce that we will soon be closing on the purchase of a commercial condominium, which will ultimately become the new home of Local 79. The new office space will better serve our growing membership with easy access to all public transportation and up-to-date technology systems.

I am also happy to report about a recent letter I received from the Secretary-Treasury Department of LiUNA that praised Local 79 for an excellent financial audit.

Over the last few months, I have been greatly inspired by the activism of our members in fighting against the broken shop model. It reminds me of an inspirational story of how the Solidarity movement began in Poland. In a cold dreary Polish shipyard in 1980, a young woman named Anna was fired for illegally belonging to a union. It was five months before she could retire. The workers in that shipyard laid their tools down and walked out in support of Anna. One month later, a union called SOLIDARITY was formed. In a year, the union had over 10 million members. It all started because workers in the shipyard stuck together over the mistreatment of their co-worker.

Solidarity is the lifeblood of the New York City Building Trades. It starts on the jobsite where we trust our brother or sister to work safe and smart. We know that our lives are at risk everyday, and our best insurance is knowing that our union has got our backs.

I assure you that the top priority continues to be fighting for our future prosperity, and with the most active membership of any Building Trades local, we are sure that we will succeed.

In solidarity,