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LOCAL 444 SEIU

SANITATION OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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IN UNITY

Photos by Mazzocchi



Bronx Officers Gather for "The Party"

By: Supv. John Manley, BX2 Garage — What started more than 30 years ago as fellow officers getting together to spread some holiday cheer, has turned into the "Best & Longest" running holiday party for all Bronx officers, both active and retired.

Back in the early 70s, Bronx West Superintendent Barney Murray was with a few fellow officers after work at a place called "Vinegar Hill," located under the El Train on Broadway by Bronx 7 & 8.

They decided they should get together with their fellow officers for the Holidays. Back then the Bronx was divided into East and West, so Murray contacted Frank Schlero from East and together they formed the "Best & Longest" running party. The first one was held at Castle Harbour Casino. Even though Castle Harbour has since closed, the Reunion continues.

Ron DeVestia, Ray Herlehy, Patrick White, Zelig Wexler, Joe Dowling, Peter Desalvo, Donald Vambomel, Frank Fontana, Mike Warren and Kevin Carroll (left to right top photo) and Anthony Donofrio and Gene Cassara (left to right

Continued on Page 3

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NEWSLETTER

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Message From President MANNION



Since my last message, our union had some great news from Albany. Governor George Pataki signed into law our Residency Bill at the end of December. Chapter 760 of the Laws of 2005 will allow Sanitation workers the option of living in areas outside of the five boroughs and Nassau and Westchester counties. This was a great success for our members and one we can all be proud of.

A few technical amendments need to be made to the bill this year. By working with the Sanitation Officers Association, we presented a unified front to the Governor that helped us get the law signed. Of course, our lobbyist Floyd Holloway also put in a tremendous amount of work to help us and for that we're very thankful.

In early February I attended the Annual Breakfast sponsored by the New York State Public Employees Conference (PEC), of which I am the Treasurer. This breakfast is a gathering of all PEC members, which now total more than 50 public-sector unions throughout the state. The Governor, Senators, Assemblymen and their staffs, and other guests were invited. This is an important event due to the high profile it creates for us. This annual event gives public-sector unions the chance to present our legislative agenda to our statewide Legislators and let them know what bills are our top priority. I attended many meetings before and after this event that provided more of an opportunity to push for benefits that will enhance the lives of our PEC members.

I have been involved with many meetings with the Commissioner and his staff and the City on our contract negotiations. The meetings are moving forward in a progressive way, but not as quickly as I would like. I feel that once the City and the Department get on the same page with each other talks will move a little quicker. I have several more meetings set with both in the days to follow. As I mentioned at the Union meetings, as well as in my last message, I will only bring a contract to the membership when I feel it will be the best I can possibly get. I appreciate your support and patience on this very important matter. It would be foolish for everyone involved to accept a deal simply to say "we have a new contract."

In early January I attended the annual Municipal Labor Committee (MLC) conference held at the UFT headquarters. The theme of this year discussions was "The Next Four Years". Panels were set up to focus on an agenda for the next four years, health care issues and of course, the City's budget. Speakers on all of the panels were very informative and to the point. If you followed the TWU's contract negotiations, strike, contract vote and it's on going aftermath (and who could have missed all that?), we are all in for a rough ride in the next round of bargaining. The MLC speakers expressed the same concerns for us in this coming round. "Tier 5" and Health Care costs will be major issues for us all. Just listen to the Mayor. He is already setting the stage. I have been involved in discussions with other MLC unions about the possibility of coalition bargaining and will be open to this option if it will help all of us get good contracts.

One last update. The Active and Retirees Welfare books have finally been updated. They are currently being reformatted to make them easier to read and follow. The new design will also allow us in the future to make corrections or updates as needed without having to reprint the entire book. Both books will soon be to the printer and then on their way to you. I know this process took a while, but it will be worth the wait.

As you can see, the past two months have been very busy ones for our union. With the new Legislative session underway in Albany, the Governor releasing his final state of the state address in early January, the Mayor presenting his state of the City and his proposed budget, it has left our union with many issues to get involved in during the year. If you have any suggestions or comments, please feel free to get in touch with our office. This is your union. Together we will keep it strong.

Governor Signs Union's Residency Bill into Law

The Sanitation Officers Association received a large Christmas president from Governor Pataki when he signed the union's residency bill into law on December 20 of last year. This new law, Chapter 760 of the Laws of 2005, gives Sanitation officers and workers the residency privileges previously afforded to some uniformed forces.

"This was a great accomplishment for us," said Local 444 President Joseph Mannion. "This is something our members deserve and need for their families. By giving us great options as to where we can live and still maintain our jobs opens up a whole set of doors that were previously closed."

Prior to this new law, Sanitation workers could only live within the five boroughs, as well as Nassau and Westchester counties. The new law extends the allowable counties to include Suffolk, Rockland, Putnam and Orange counties for those employees with more than five years on the job. Union Lobbyist Floyd Holloway said the Legislature has already submitted an amendment to the law to clarify what counties are or are not allowable.

"This new law allows sanitation workers to enjoy the American dream. They can move to the suburbs, buy a home and own property. They won't be tied down to living in the five boroughs," Holloway said.

Mannion said that the legislative sponsors of the bill agreed to make the changes after the bill became law so that the Governor would sign the original bill submitted last year and the union would not have to start from scratch this year.

"I have received many phone calls from members and non-members with their concerns over the changes. I assure you that I have your best interests at heart," Mannion said. "I have made many phone calls to Assembly and Senate members and their staffs expressing our concerns and our needs with this chapter amendment. I have made trips up to Albany and have met with some important 'friends' to discuss our issues."

Mannion said he has been assured by reliable Albany insiders that the Chapter amendment will ultimately give the same benefits to sanitation workers as currently being given to other uniformed unions. "I've been told that Suffolk, Rockland and Putnam are definitely included. Orange County will most likely remain as well. I believe that if the language of Police, Fire and Corrections is used, we will have no problem," he said.

Mannion said that the union owes its thanks to all those Legislators who helped get the original bill signed into law, and are working now to ensure the Chapter amendment's success. In the Senate, the bill was sponsored by Sen. Vincent Leibell (40th District). In the Assembly, the sponsors were Assemblywoman Roann Destito (116th District) and Assemblyman William Boyland, Jr. (55th District). The union also extends its thanks to Edward Bartholomew Jr., Assistant Counsel to Senate Majority Joseph Bruno, and of course Gov. George Pataki for signing the bill into law.

"This never would have been possible without the many hours of hard work by our lobbyist Floyd Holloway, who not only had to put up with my many calls, but also assisted me in the many meetings we had in Albany," Mannion said. "I would like to also thank Harry Nespoli and his lobbyist Robert Bishop. The work Bob did in the City as well as in Albany was much needed to get this done. It goes to show you, as I commented in my last message, when you work together with a common goal we all become winners. I look forward to working with Harry on future endeavors to enhance the lives of all of our members. Thank you all."

Bronx Has "The Party"

Continued from Page 1

bottom photo) were just some of the officers who got together on December 6, 2005, at the American Turner's Club to share in each other's company for the holidays and keep the spirit alive. The Bronx is the only Boro that has this event that gives members a chance to mingle with each other, as well as former, current and future leaders of the Department. "This is your party. Keep it alive," said Supv. John Manley (BX2 Garage.) This Bronx Party has historically been the first Tuesday of December. Mark your calendars now for this year's party.

Shop Stewards

Manhattan

M1	Joseph Barge
M2	Joseph Rodriguez
M3	Nicholas Morrone
M4	John Johnston
M5	Jose Zacaraz
M6	Jose Cruz
M7	Peter Cullen
M8	Mike Brown
M9	Daniel Paesano
M10	John Laporta
M11	John Kendrick
M12	Jorge Ortiz

Bronx

BX1	Richard Pedone
BX2	Lewis Hernandez
BX3	John Aversano
BX4	William Troche
BX5	James McGovern
BX6	Bill Williams
BX7	Ray Schinnick
BX8	Steve Rosso
BX9	Anthony Amore
BX10	James Minore
BX11	Al Pappalardi
BX12	Mike Cambria

Brooklyn

BK1	Carl Consolo
BK2	William Newlin
BK3	Vincent Cutrupi
BK4	Philip Rodriguez
BK5	John Mickle
BK6	Pete Maggio
BK7	Thomas Crowley
BK8	Rashid Smith
BK9	Phillip Monachino
BK10	Gerald Iacono
BK11	Carlos Rivera
BK12	Vincent Buccheri
BK13	Frank Scaduto
BK14	James Murray
BK15	Francis Walsh
BK16	Albert Gray
BK17	Patsy Sorrentino
BK18	Terrance Winters

Queens

Q1	William Magill
Q2	Michael Frietag
Q3	Robert Adams
Q4	Arthur Aloe
Q5	James Kraly
Q6	Richard Moore
Q7	Phil Camilleri
Q8	Dennis O'Reilly
Q9	Robert Cole
Q10	Nicholas Biscardi
Q11	Chuck McDonald
Q12	Mark Stanzione
Q13	Roger Rebando
Q14	Frank LaPera

Staten Island

SI1	William Smith
SI2	Leonard Buopane
SI3	Richard Lauser

Splinter Groups

SP	Charles Diaz
DVO	Kevin Lyons
Lots	Frank Perrone
	Joseph Gallipani
OAU	Roy Brandquist
FK	Arthur Mondella
BWD Export	George Nieves

Member LETTERS

Member E-MAILS

E-mail from:
JIM MARKEY

Dear President Mannion,

It was enjoyable to receive my second issue of the "In Unity" newsletter. This newsletter ranks up there with the best of them. Great job.

Wonderful memories were brought back when I read Frank Lopiano's letter. I too worked in BxE, Dist. 26 as a San Man. I also worked in the BxE Boro Office for some time as well as the Main Office in FIAT as a clerk. As an Asst. Foreman I worked in BxW, Dist. 27 until promoted to Foreman. As a Foreman I worked in QN Dist. 60 as a NDS and was also the Dist. Shop Steward. I did some time as a Foreman in the Main Office again. I retired in 1980 after an on the job injury while back in Queens.

There is one thing I would like to see in the newsletter, a page devoted to making contacts. It can be as simple as a name, last work location and an e-mail address. I'm certain there are many of us who would enjoy once again being in contact with old friends.

I also agree with Sal LaFonte, as we retiree's should make a \$10 donation twice a year to help offset the cost of first class mail for our great newsletter. I again would like to thank you President Mannion for the outstanding job and direction you are taking our Union.

Dear President Mannion,

I received a copy of "In Unity" Sept.-Oct; my condolences to the Sanchez Family. I read that he was a section foreman in the old courthouse, 121st Street between 3rd and Lexington Avenues. That is the section I was assigned to in 1947. It was District 12, section 124. My route was 124th Street and 125th Street from Lenox to East River Drive. I was a probation employee and was laid off in 1948. I came back on the job as a regular in 1952, back to the courthouse which then was District 10, Section 104. After a number of years the Department changed it to District 8, section 84.

I worked with Frank Lopiano, our foreman was Sal Patricola (aka: Pepsi-Cola); Superintendent was George P. Russo; garage foreman was Tony Avella. I spent about 15 years in that District and then was promoted to Foreman. I was assigned to District 6. The Superintendent was John Tipper.

Please forward to me Frank Lopiano's telephone number in Arizona as I would like to get in touch with him.

Sincerely,

Louis Cataldo (FL)

Dear Joe,

I had to write to let you and the other Officers know how much I appreciated our "In Unity" newsletter. Creating this newsletter may be one of the best things you've done as President. This publication keeps us all connected and informed.

For retirees, such as myself, it is an invaluable source of information. It keeps us up to date on new legislation, benefit changes, and how our brothers and sisters are doing on and off the job. It reflects our lives from new born children to those remembered in memoriam. I always check the list of names on the "About Our Members" page to see if any of my old fellow Officers are mentioned. The mere mention of their names brings back memories of the "old days."

My thanks to you, Frank, Gennaro, Glenn and Joseph for all that you do in our behalf. It's nice to know that we who have left the active ranks are not forgotten as they sometimes are by other organizations. A prime example is when an improvement in burial benefits was recently made for the active Officers you didn't forget the retirees, you improved ours as well. Thanks for helping those who went before you; it says a lot about the kind of Union we are.

Give my best to two old friends who are still working to help our members, Dom Ferrucci and Fred Camera our Active and Retiree Consultants. Keep up the good work guys and may God bless you and your families.

Mike Brown (SC)

President Mannion,

I really enjoyed reading about all the retirees and looking for old friends. Keep up the good work.

I want to announce as of May 1st of this year, our 50th wedding anniversary, Josephine and Vincent Perri. I retired in March of 1988. Almost 18 years of sweet retirement and enjoying every minute of it and looking forward to many more.

Thank you for taking care of me and my family all these years. Knowing you were there makes all the difference in a good retirement.

Thanks,

Vincent Perri, (BK12) (NY)

To all Union Officers of Local 444,

Like the paper I received. The "Unity" keeps us Retired Officers informed on how the job (is) doing and what's happening. Keep up the good work Joe and the guys.

Sincerely,

Ret. Supv. John Barbuto (NY)

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Keep those letters coming into the office
so we know what's on your mind.

You can send them via mail or e-mail.
Both addresses are on Page 2 of this newsletter.



Unity,

I am a retired Supervisor from ME5. Just writing to tell you I really liked the journal "Unity."

I am writing to let you know I became a Grandfather of 3 boys in the last six weeks. Two were born on August 16, 2005 and the other was born on October 1, 2005 to my two daughters. Also I don't know if anyone has let you know that Supv. Angelo Beneventano of ME11A died this past year. I don't know the exact date. Keep up the good work in keeping us retirees informed of all the news in the Department.

Thank You,

Domenick Golia (NY)

Dear Mr. Ferber,

Please find enclosed a certified copy of my father's death certificate, as requested by your office. My sister and I were extremely proud of our dad, as he started from the bottom rank with the New York City Sanitation Department, after serving in the European Theatre during WWII.

He worked for the city for approximately 33 years, attaining the rank of Deputy Chief of Staff. His badge number was only a solo digit, "9". I have put out a call to President Joseph Mannion, to find out if any mention is made when a high ranking officer passes away. If you need any additional information about my father, Benjamin Widom, you can contact me at the address and phone number on the letterhead.

Very truly yours,

Dr. David J. Widom, D.P.M. (Son)

Dear Joe Mannion,

Thank you for putting my letter in "In Unity." I brought "Unity" to our meeting of the KOC Council and it was read by all. Thoroughly enjoyed by family, friends and should have been in existence during my years in the DS. In chance I will hear from my many friends in the Department, I submit the following:

Thomas J. Byrnes (Goshen, NY)

Retired 1973

(845) 615-1616

Last assignment: QS as Boro Supt.

Sincerely,

Thomas Byrnes

A Brief NOTE

NYC TRANSIT VS. PERB

— As the result of a recent PERB decision extending Weingarten rights to public sector employees, those public employees called into a meeting that the employee reasonably believes might result in disciplinary action have the right to union representation during the meeting. However, employees MUST ASK for the union representation. It is NOT the employer's obligation to ensure that the protection is provided. Any member called into such a meeting should be aware that they have the right to union representation and should call the union office immediately for assistance.

Member E-MAILS

E-mail from:

RET. SUPT. JIM VOMERO
(SI3 & FK)

In Unity,

I would like to congratulate the Officers and the entire staff for the "In Unity" publication. As a retiree since 1990, I find it very informative. While the civil service retiree association offers information, "In Unity" is more specific to our needs and problems. It is also nice to hear from former friends, both active and retired. Keep up the good work.

Union Prepares New Welfare Fund Books

The Union has just completed a redo of its Welfare Fund Books. They will be sent to the printer shortly and then mailed to members. There are several different types of mailings, however. Active and retired members who have an old book and binder, will receive only the new "guts" to insert into your binders. Discard the old pages to prevent any confusion.

The second mailing is to new Officers and retirees who never received any book. You will receive a binder, tab pages and the new "guts." Please read the updated benefit books and keep them in a safe place.

If you need to replace your book there is a fee. You may, however, go to our web site and print out the book's contents for free. We will let you know when the new text has been posted to the website.

Update Your Beneficiaries

Chances are you have an array of life insurance policies, pensions, IRAs, 401(k)s and other retirement accounts. Every one of them required you to name a beneficiary. Make sure your beneficiaries are current. No matter what your will says, the person(s) named as beneficiary(s) on these accounts will get the money.

Financial advisers say the beginning of the year is a good time to review all your beneficiary information. If you're over 60, do it every January.

To make changes to your pension (pre-retirement), 401(k)s, 457s and life insurance policies, call the plan administrators to update this information. For IRAs, contact the bank or financial institution where the money is deposited.

After all, you worked hard for your money. You should have peace of mind knowing that when you're not here anymore, only those whom you wanted to have your money, actually inherit it.

Hold The DATE

February

- 12 Lincoln's Birthday
13 Lincoln's Birthday
Observed
14 Valentine's Day
20 President's Day
22 Washington's
Birthday

March

- 1 Ash Wednesday
9 Membership
Meeting
17 St. Patrick's
Day
20 Spring Begins

Message From 1st Vice President MAZZOCCHI



In my last article I wrote about the recently signed Pension Loan Repayment Program. I explained in detail how you go about entering the program and how to pay off your loan.

To my surprise I received more than a few calls on this issue, most questioning if it was a wise decision to repay a pension loan and reap the reward of a full pension once and for all.

What I am going to explain now should be looked at by ACTIVE members as well as RETIREES because it involves the old adage "how to make money work for you."

If you are going to retire, you don't "just do it." You have to ensure financial stability for the rest of your life. When you retire, you should have a definitive plan that covers all bases. I can't tell you how to go about that in great detail, but can highly recommend you seek some professional guidance if you're unsure.

However, I do want to address the Pension Loan Program and how to take advantage of it. Taking a loan is your decision, but remember that there are basically two reasons for doing so — need and future allocation.

SCENARIO #1:

The first case example involves a retiree called Tony Tier One. Tony retired in 1989 at age 54 with existing loans totaling \$16,000. This will deficit his pension more than \$90 a month or about \$1,446 yearly. The smaller your pension, the less tax you pay. So on a \$1,446 pension deficit, you will save approximately \$200 a year in federal tax. (Residing in New York you only pay federal tax on your Pension).

It took Tony Tier One a little more than 11 years to equal what he had borrowed from the pension. He is now 69 years old and wants to know if he should pay back the lump sum \$16,000 he borrowed 15 years earlier and reap the reward of getting a full Pension with a little more than \$90 a month increment for the rest of his life.

Remember, it will take 11 years to satisfy the \$16,000. The year will be 2017 (Tony will be 80) before Tony Tier One is receiving what he had not paid into the pension.

SCENARIO #2:

The next scenario involves Philly Frugal Tier Four. (Yes, the bill now includes all tiers.) Philly retired in 2004 and took a loan 10 days before the Close of Business Date. At age 48 the borrowed amount was \$20,000, resulting in almost \$120 less in Philly's pension check every month.

Philly Frugal decides to roll over the full loan amount to an IRA and escape paying the 1099 form generated by the pension bureau. It will take more than 14 years before the borrowed money is exhausted and the deficit will continue.

Philly Frugal shops for an IRA with interest and secures a commitment with 5.5% interest over the span of the IRA. At the conclusion of his 14th year of retirement Philly Frugal pays back the pension loan and increases his pension almost \$120 a month. At age 61, he commences his pension loan-funded IRA to pay an additional \$150 a month.

What Philly did was well thought out and planned, thus reaping him the rewards of additional money. His intention of taking a Pension Loan was to double his money, then pay off the loan and bring his retirement income to its full value. With the existing money, (interest made from the pension loan) sitting in an IRA, will be withdrawn monthly for the next 15 years.

The Pension Loan program is something to think about when planning retirement. It is a way to possibly make money work for you. If you have any questions, please give me a call.

About Our MEMBERS



In Memoriam:

Supv. James Treacy (QW2) 01/28/06
 Arthur Schwartz (Ret. 1979) . . . 09/09/05
 Vincent Reising (Ret. 1988) . . . 10/31/05
 Albert Giancola (Ret. 1973) . . . 11/20/05
 Benjamin Widom (Ret. 1978) . . . 11/20/05
 Tullio Risolo (Ret. 1972) 11/28/05
 Harold Sawchuk (Ret. 1989) . . . 12/19/05
 Salvatore Miceli (Ret. 1973) . . . 12/22/05
 Fortuno Barba (Ret. 1983) 12/29/05
 Nicholas Hnyda (Ret. 1976) . . . 01/02/06
 Dominic Barile (Ret. 1975) . . . 01/04/06
 Joseph Maria (Ret. 1974) 01/07/06
 Frank Tuozzo (Ret-1988) 01/12/06
 Anthony Parisi (Ret-1991) 01/17/06

In Memoriam Family:

Supv. Joseph Dawson, BK15/SOA Exec Board Supv. Rep. — (Mother)
 Supt. Joseph Bugliaro, BKN Boro — (Brother-in-Law)
 Supv. Anthony Sala, BX Lots — (Mother)
 Supv. Fred Barba, BOO — (Father, Ret.
 Supv. Fortuno Barba)
 Supv. McArthur Peebles, BX3A — (Father-in-Law)
 Supv. Richard DiPietro, OAU — (Mother-in-Law)
 Supv. Nicholas Delgado, SSLU — (Father)
 Ret. Supv. Calvin (Teddy) Sage, BK1 — (Son, Lance Sage-US Army/Iraq)
 Ret. Supt. Peter (Buzz) Loughlin, FK — (Father)

LET US KNOW

All members are encouraged to send in announcements of special events in your family's lives. Please include photos if possible — birth of a child, milestone birthday or anniversary, child's high school or college graduation, for example.

Along with your photos, please include your name, a daytime and evening phone number (in case we need to contact you), and some important information about the event.

We will try to return photos, but do not send originals that cannot be replaced.

Send all information and photos to:
 In UNITY
 Local 444 SEIU
 8510 Bay 16th Street, 2nd Floor
 Brooklyn, NY 11214

Retiring Members:

Supv. Kurt Corell, QE12 11/04/05
 Supv. Al Maesano, Lots 01/01/06
 Supt. Charles Vaicels, QE 01/01/06
 Supv. Ralph (Sonny) DeRosa,
 BOO 01/16/06
 Supv. Alex Ruggieri, QW2 01/23/06
 Supv. Frank Cesare, QE13 02/01/06
 Supv. William Talley, M10 02/01/06
 Supv. Anthony Zaccarelli, QW1. 02/01/06

Serving America:

(Letters of encouragement and packages are appreciated)

Supv. Robert Cole (QW9) (Daughter)
 2LT Claire Cole (Germany)
 94th EN. BN., HSC
 A.P.O. AE 09334
(After completing a tour in Iraq, Claire is currently stationed in Germany)



Ret. Supv. Domenick Golia (NY) was elected into the National Hall of Fame on September 9, 2001 in Las Vegas, NV. He has been playing softball for more than 40 years. At almost 77 years old, he still plays in a league in Nassau and Suffolk counties.

In the 1999 Senior Olympics he played at the Disney World Complex in Orlando, FL, and won the Gold medal after going undefeated in the tournament. "After reading Unity Issue #3, I want to congratulate Retiree Bob Fuhst on his election to the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame. It is great to have another NYC Sanitation Supv. elected to the Hall of Fame," Golia said.

CONGRATULATIONS to Proud Dad **Retired Supv. John Benvenuto** (Ret. 1990), who informed us by e-mail that his son John Benvenuto Jr. had a busy August. He and his wife had a baby girl on August 23, 2005, (they already have another daughter as well) and he was promoted on August 25, 2005, to Lieutenant in the NYCPD. He has been assigned to Administrative Lieutenant in the Queens Task Force.

Be In TOUCH

RETREEE DIRECTORY— Many retirees contacted the Union office asking how to get in touch with fellow retired colleagues. We decided to run a column for retirees who wish to have their names, addresses, phone numbers and/or e-mail addresses listed so others can be in touch.

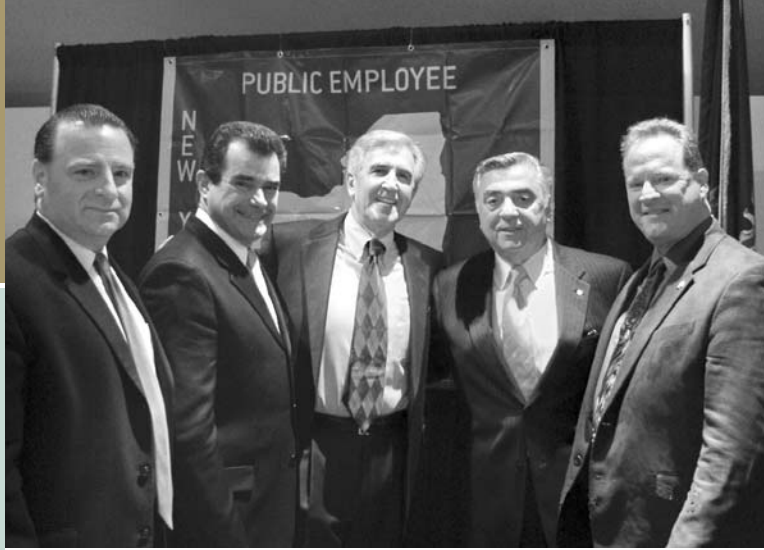
To be included in this listing, you must fax or send to the union office a letter signed by you including your social security number and date of birth, giving us permission to post your information.

THOMAS J. BYRNES

Ret. 1973 — QS-Boro Supt.
 (845) 615-1616
 Address: Apt. 2034
 214 Harriman Dr.
 Goshen, N.Y. 10924-2425

A Brief NOTE

MEDICARE "D" — January Pension checks for Retirees in Medicare "D" did not reflect the new Health Insurance deductibles for about 11,000 Retirees. We were told that in February it would be corrected and the new Medicare rate would be posted. Check your Pension check and verify your Health insurance rate. If there is a problem, call the New York City Health Benefits Program at (212) 513-0470.



Meeting the State's Top Leaders

President Joseph Mannion (also NYS PEC Treasurer) attended this year's PEC Lobby Day in Albany on February 7 to help push legislation of importance to the labor movement. In top left photo, Local 246 President Joe Colangelo, PEC Chairman and CCA President Peter Meringolo, NYS Senator Majority Leader Joe Bruno, Lobbyist Lou Matarazzo, and Mannion. Top right photo, Mannion with NYS Assembly Democratic Leader Sheldon Silver. Bottom left photo, Mannion with NYS Senator Martin Golden from Brooklyn.

Speaking before the crowd in attendance, Speaker Silver said "I believe that New York's public employees are the backbone of this State. Elected leaders will come, and elected leaders will go, and this democracy will progress unabated. But take away our law enforcement, corrections and court officers ... take away our firefighters, EMTs, health-care workers and sanitation officers ... take away the people who run our public transportation system ... and those who build and rebuild our public infrastructure ... and this democracy that we hold so precious will sour, almost immediately, into chaos."

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