States Tipping the Scales Against Labor With Right-to-Work Laws Which will be Next?

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Retirements Lead to Changes within Local 94 Executive Board

Along with the bone-chilling temperatures and seemingly weekly storms, winter brought winds of change within our Local 94 Executive Board. The latest of those changes arrived in February, when Local 94 Vice President John Kramer announced his retirement.

As an engineer, chief, union activist, picket captain, shop steward, trustee, business agent, treasurer, and vice president John Kramer set a standard of excellence and advocacy that will reverberate within IUOE Local 94 for decades.

John Kramer can rightfully be recognized as a Founding Father of today’s Local. These are the men who walked the picket lines and fought to transform this union from “glorified porters” to cutting edge engineers.

It was under John Kramer’s leadership that the Local 94 Scholarship Fund which began in 1996 by the awarding of two scholarships has gone on to presenting nearly $1.2 million in scholarships to more than 160 sons and daughters of Local 94 members!

In recognition for a lifetime of service, the Local 94 Executive Board has voted to install John Kramer as the Vice President Emeritus.

Other Executive Board members who have also recently retired include former Financial Secretary Robert Zammer and Trustee Gerard Streicher.

Those three retirements have resulted in a new look leadership and the addition of four new members to the Local 94 Executive Board. While we all know their faces, here’s a little bit about the new members of the EB.

Vincent Curcio and Bill Caramico will serve as Trustees and Rocco Ferrigno and David Rodriguez have joined Anthony Fasulo as Auditors.

A Marine Corps veteran, Vincent Curcio began his Local 94 career as an engineer’s helper for C&W at 1166 Sixth Avenue in 1986. During his engineering career he has at 60 Wall Street, where he rose to Assistant Chief; and has been a Chief at 100 Park Avenue; 1330 Sixth Ave., and 730 Third Ave. He currently heads the engineering department at Crowne Plaza Hotel at 1605 Broadway.

In addition, Curcio has been a Curriculum Committee member since 2008 and an instructor at the Local 94 Training Fund since 2012 for the USGBC G-Pro O&M Course and the Unit 1 course.

Vincent is married to his wife June and they have five children and a Granddaughter.

Bill Caramico has been an active member of Local 94 for 33 years. A committed member of the Political Action Committee Fund, Bill stands alone as a member that collected more political action check-offs cards then any member in Local 94’s history. Alongside Ray Macco and Jack Redden, Bill helped lead the way in the fight for the prevailing wage for school workers.

Beyond his support for the PAC Fund, Bill is an Instructor for Labor Relations for our Union.

Bill launched his career at 100 Wall Street and worked at 1700 Broadway, 900 Third Avenue, 590 Madison Avenue, IBM and Johnson Controls where he led the support team for the NYC Public Schools. He is currently working at the New York Post where he is the shop steward.

Bill is married to Kathy Caramico and they have two daughters, and a granddaughter.

Elected to the Executive Board as an Auditor in May of last year, Rocco Ferrigno is sure to be found at any and all building rallies, scholarship fund events, Labor Day Parades and borough dinners. Rocky has been a member of the Local 94 Curriculum Committee since 2003.

Rocky began and has spent his career at 111 Wall Street where he was hired as an engineer’s helper for Nation Engineering in 1981. Today more than 22 years later, he is the Chief Engineer for Citi Bank in that building, he is still responsible for the one million square feet of tenant space and a critical data center with a crew of 16 men.

A strike captain and longtime supporter of the PAC Fund, David Rodriguez began his career as an engineer’s assistant for Cushman & Wakefield in 1995. Today he is the Chief Engineer for Collier’s International at 655 Madison Ave.

Over the course of his 20 year career, Dave has been a resident engineer and served as a project manager on various construction projects and system upgrades. Nearly a third of David’s engineering career was spent at Cushman & Wakefield as an engineer, chief, union activist, picket captain, and campaign to educate other members of the importance of joining the Political Action Committee (PAC) Fund.

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Secure in Our Agreements; Fight Rages to Save Union Rights

President’s Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Despite all the disruptions created by snow, ice and freezing temperatures we were able to negotiate and ratify a new labor agreement with the Realty Advisory Board for Labor for our commercial members, the Department of Education and Local 891 for our school members.

And, while it took a bit longer, we were also able to negotiate a new contract for our six members employed by Covenant House. While these agreements will assure labor peace and provide security for our members and our families, there is work to be done.

For us, that means to finally gain equal pay for equal work for our nearly 1,080 members classified as “indirect employees” by the Department of Education. This injustice which prevents us from negotiating directly with the Department of Education on behalf of those members must end. We made that clear in our contract negotiations.

Our agreement includes language to establish a joint committee to address this issue. Local 94 along with SEIU 32BJ and others recently testified before the City Council (see related story on page 5), to shed light on economic injustices our brothers and sisters working in our New York City schools lives with every day.

Testifying at hearings is only a small step in our fight for a just wage. I assure you, Local 94 is prepared to meet with anyone, anywhere, anytime and do whatever it takes to make our members whole.

We can wage our fight with confidence because we have a strong union.

Unfortunately after over 60 years of relentless state by state assaults on unions through the passage of right-to-work legislation there have so impacted union membership that the ability of unions to collectively bargain may be lost forever.

In Solidarity,

Kuba J. Brown
President/Business Manager
IUOE Local 94

Local 94 Directs Attention to Injustice of Indirect System to City Council

Local 94 Firemen Joseph Modica.

“Today working seven days a week is stealing precious days and hours I could spend with my wife, my sons and my daughter. The reality is I fear I am paying a heavy price for my financial decisions.”

Local 94 Firemen and other custodial employees may have started the year with a new contract. However the new deal did nothing to resolve the prevailing wage issue affecting Local 94’s more than 1,000 “indirect” employees within the Department of Education.

In a demonstration that the fight for the prevailing wage is far from over, Local 94 Business Manager Kuba Brown, along with Business Agents Jack Redden and Ray Macco led a delegation of Local 94 leaders and members to present our “equal pay” argument before the City Council Education Committee hearing on February 2.

Testifying on behalf of Local 94 Ray Macco cited the unjust wage gap that in some cases has Local 94’s “indirect” employees earning $22,500 a year less than “direct” DOE employees doing the same or lesser work. Macco also took the committee beyond the lighter paychecks.

The DOE is shortchanging the Local 94 Health, Pension and Training Funds. “Contributions to the Local 94 Health & Welfare Funds for indirect employees are $5.15 per hour below the contributions to other engineers employed by NYC. So unlike all other NYC employees Local 94’s indirect employees do not receive health benefits upon retirement,” said Macco.

Without those contributions Local 94 cannot afford to provide our members with healthcare benefits when they retire,” Macco told the committee. Until informed of that injustice Councilmember Daniel Dromm, who chairs the Education Committee told Macco that neither he, nor other members of the committee had any idea Local 94 members do not receive those same retirement health benefits as nearly all other retired city employees.

Dromm and others were further moved by the emotional personal accounts of Local 94 Firemen Joseph Modica and Raymond Cerna. Modica, a Fireman at Grady High School in Brighton Beach could not have been more direct: “my job cost me my first marriage,” he told the committee.

“...the reality is I fear I am paying a heavy price for my financial decisions,” an emotional Modica explained.

Cerna, who has worked at PS 11 in the Bronx for more than 23 years, told the committee that despite holding nearly a half-dozen licenses he earns $7 an hour less than contract employees. “Here in New York, a city that prides itself on fairness and equality, thousands of school workers have been left behind in a two-tiered system. I cannot understand how this unjust system can be allowed to continue,” Cerna asked.

Along with Local 94 the committee also heard testimony from representatives of Local 32BJ SEIU, IUOE Local 831 President Robert Triollet and Deputy Chancellor Elizabeth Rose, John Shea, Chief Executive of School Facilities and Renee Campion First Deputy Commissioner, NYC Office of Labor Relations.

While the hearing did nothing to resolve the inequities, it did provide a small window of hope. “Having an indirect system is not set in stone,” Deputy Chancellor Stone told the committee. “(The DOE) is always interested in having the best system possible...we recognize the discrepancy, and are open to discussions with the three unions.”
Ray Macco

It is simply a coincidence, but for me it has been a blessing. Twice John Kramer has helped guide me through a transition.

When I was first promoted to Business Representative in the Schools Division in 1999, it was John who made the introductions and set me on the right course. He made the transition easy.

John’s knowledge of the industry and the contract is unrivaled. More importantly, his ability to work with people and resolve problems has earned him the respect and trust of the membership and management. He has been a friend and mentor, always ready to help ever since.

Since announcing his retirement earlier this year, John has once again been escorting me throughout Lower Manhattan and Brooklyn introducing me to the Local 94 members I will now have the honor of serving. At each and every stop, and in every conversation with the members and management, I realized that the respect, trust and admiration for John has never wavered.

He is leaving some very large shoes to fill. I promise you I will do my very best.

And, while many of you know me from my work within the Local, as well as during my recent introductory visits with John, I would like to take this opportunity to tell you a little more about myself. I began my Local 94 career in 1981, as IT Director, responsible for the design, development and implementation of the first computer system for the Union and Local 94 Benefit Funds in addition to the creation of Local 94’s first website.

I have been involved in all contract negotiations since 2004. True to my belief in political action and community involvement, I helped to create and have been the Chairman of the Local 94 Political Action Committee and am proud that we have a Political Action Fund (PAC). It is through the PAC that our voices are heard. Remember, if you do not speak up, you cannot be heard.

Within the community, I have helped to organize our members in volunteer efforts including clean-up and environmental projects with the Boy Scouts on Staten Island, and assisting the White Roof Project, paint rooftops to help save energy costs.

In addition to my new Business Representative duties, I have been elected Financial Secretary, on the Local 94 Executive Board, and I will continue to serve as a Full Union Trustee on all Local 94 Benefit (Health, Annuity and Training) Funds.

Facing the Challenge of Filling John Kramer’s Large Shoes

Tom Hart

Renowned in the industry as “the true measure of what it takes to run a building” BOMA’s Pinnacle Awards are commercial building Oscar’s. The gold topped crystal awards are presented in recognition of both individual and team achievements.

Presented each February, each of the New York City winners are automatically nominated into the regional event which could eventually lead to the national TOBY (The Outstanding Building of the Year) Award. Among this year’s winners are a pair of Local 94-operated buildings located in the heart of midtown.

452 Fifth Avenue was presented with the Renovated Building Award; and 340 Madison Avenue was recognized for Outstanding Office Building Operations (500,000 – 1,000,000 sq. ft.).

“This is really quite an honor,” said 340 Madison Avenue Chief Engineer John Harton. “We are especially proud to have been recognized for aesthetics as well as efficiencies.”

But don’t expect Harton and his crew of John Giordano, Visar Bellchitsa, Dennis Lawler, Mynor Escobar and Richie Sheil to rest on their laurels. Having already earned an Energy Star score of 93, the team is seeking even greater fuel and electricity savings.

By installing isolation valves and creating four separate zones, Hatton’s crew has reduced their fuel consumption by some 35% over the past three years. “And, that was after switching from # 6 to # 2 fuel,” said Hatton.

Always with an eye on reducing electricity, a state-of-art electric monitoring system will soon be up and running. “In the last year alone we have reduced our usage by 713 KW hours, we expect to do even better in 2015,” said Hatton. “The more feedback we have, the more we can modify our usage.”

There is also a great sense of pride and accomplishment at 452 Fifth Avenue where the BOMA award is prominently displayed in the lobby. Actually 452 is a configuration of three buildings, the landmarked Beaux Arts Knox Building; a onetime Kress Department store and a 30-story glass and steel tower built in the early 1980’s.

The 340 Madison Avenue crew proudly displays their BOMA Award. L to R Chief John Hatton, Visar Bellchitsa, Mynor Escobar, John Giordano (seated), Dennis Lawler, Richie Sheil.

Local 94 Crews Help Midtown Towers Capture BOMA Pinnacle Awards

Bank, the building was sold in 2010 and transformed into a multi-tenant structure managed by CBRE. Along with the transformation, CBRE brought in a new crew under the direction of Chief Engineer John Paluch.

So even as new generators, hi-rise elevators, cooling towers and risers, a new BMS and steam controls, were installed along with other renovations, Paluch’s team of Paul Krische, Edward Luciano, Albert Mutis, Christopher Viviani, Inocencio Arroyo, James Haberman, Bill Ott and Nelson Velasquez ensured a seamless transition. “Our guys were the meat-and-potatoes that ensured all the improvements being made came to fruition,” Paluch explained.

“Our team Oversees and ensures everything that is done and is done appropriately.”

The 340 Madison Avenue crew proudly displays their BOMA Award. L to R Chief John Hatton, Visar Bellchitsa, Mynor Escobar, John Giordano (seated), Dennis Lawler, Richie Sheil.
Local 94's Scholarship Recipients

Michael Agovino
While attending Salesian High School in New Rochelle, N.Y., Michael was active both in school and his parish. In school he was vice president of the student body and editor of Salesian Spectator. As a Youth Minister he led various community projects, including the establishment of a breakfast program which raised more than $20,000 to fund a medical mission trip to Cap-Haitien, Haiti. Michael is attending Seton Hall University as well as Immaculate Conception School of Theology as a Seminarian for the Salesians of Don Bosco. He will be majoring in Catholic Theology and American History. Michael is the son of Vincenzo Agovino, a Fireman/Operating Engineer at Adial E. Stevenson High School in the Bronx. He has been a member of Local 94 since 2002.

Sarah Clahane
A graduate of Calhoun High School in Merrick, L.I., Sarah excelled in academics and was active in several clubs including S.A.D.D. (Students Against Destructive Decisions) and Be The Change – providing assistance as a volunteer at a center for underprivileged children. Sarah was an all-conference badminton player and a county badminton champion; she was also a member of the soccer team which reached the county finals. She was a member of the Science, Math and National Honor Societies. Sarah is attending the University of Massachusetts to study Chemistry and Psychology.

Sarah is the daughter of John Clahane a Fireman/Foreman for TEMCO at High School of Graphic Communication Arts in Manhattan. He has been a member of Local 94 since 1988.

Connor Connaughton
While a student at Our Lady of Lourdes in Poughkeepsie High School, Connor maintained a 3.9 GPA and was a fixture on the Dean’s List through all four years. He is a member of the National Honor Society. He volunteered in S.A.D.D. (Students Against Destructive Decisions) and the Ski and Yearbook Clubs. An outstanding baseball player Connor was named All League Player for Varsity Baseball and honored with the Coach’s Award. Connor is attending Rochester Institute of Technology where he is studying Electrical Engineering and minoring in Accounting.

Connor is the son of Sean Connaughton who is a Chief Engineer for George Comfort and Sons at 200 Madison Avenue, NYC. He has been a member of Local 94 since 1988.

Michael D’Alessio
While attending Xavierian High School in Brooklyn, Michael earned advanced Regents Diplomas as well as awards of recognition for excellence in Psychology, English Composition, Anatomy and Physiology. He is a member of the National Honor Society. Michael volunteers in the parish CCD program, a local Soup Kitchen and participates in the Xavierian Big Brother Program. Michael is attending St. John’s University, the Queens campus, where he hopes to major in Biology and eventually attend medical school.

Michael is the son of Joel D’Alessio a Chief Engineer for Able Engineering Services at 850 Third Avenue. He has been a member of Local 94 since 1988.

Samantha Fowler
While attending Xavierian High School in Brooklyn, Michael earned advanced Regents Diplomas as well as awards of recognition for excellence in Psychology, English Composition, Anatomy and Physiology. He is a member of the National Honor Society. Michael volunteers in the parish CCD program, a local Soup Kitchen and participates in the Xavierian Big Brother Program. Michael is attending St. John’s University, the Queens campus, where he hopes to major in Biology and eventually attend medical school.

Samantha is the daughter of Michael Fowler an Engineer for Farrell Building Services at 799 U.N. Plaza. He has been a member of Local 94 since 1982.

Erica Gbur
While attending Whippany Park High School in New Jersey, Erica was named a Commended Student in the 2014 National Merit Program. Along with remaining active in the Girls Scouts, she also contributed to the drama club, Etcetera, the literary magazine; ERASE - End Racism and Sexism Everywhere and the environmental Club (SEEK). Erica is attending Ohio State where she is majoring in English with a minor in film studies, political science and political theory and hopes to apply to law school. Erica is the daughter of Michael Gbur who works as an Engineer for ABM Engineering at 321 West 44th Street. He has been a member of Local 94 since 1997.

Dayna Herling
While attending Eldred Central School in Eldred, NY, Dayna was president of her school’s Interact Club assisting in fundraising and community activities. A life-long member of the Girl Scouts Dayna earned gold, silver and bronze awards. She also participated within a community gardening program in local parks, participated in the local blood drive; collected food and raised funds for the local food pantries. Dayna is attending Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute to study Electrical Engineering.

Dayna is the daughter of Edward Herling a Chief Operational Engineer at Sandhurst Associates at 653 Third Avenue. He has been a member since 1987.

Christian Magorrian
While attending Division Avenue High School in Levittown, L.I., Christian was a prominent member of the Science Olympiad Team earning third, sixth and eighth place medals at the 2014 New York State Competition. He is a recipient of the Principal, Presidential and Nassau County Legislature’s Citizenship Awards.

Christian is a volunteer with the Nassau County Smokoking prevention initiative-ATUPA. Christian is attending Binghamton University where he is majoring in Physics and plans on a career in medicine.

Christian is the son of Thomas Magorrian a Chief Engineer for Samsom Management at 110 Fifth Avenue. He has been a member of Local 94 since 1983.

Steven Rizzo
A graduate of Roy C. Ketcham High School in Wappingers Fall, NY, Steven was selected Student Body President and acted as Vice President of the Parent-Teacher-Student Association. He was a National Honor Society Ambassador and co-founder of the Ketcham Pride Committee. Steven remains active in the community serving as a Dutchess County Wesherd Protection Activist, and is a volunteer in the Knights of Columbus. Steven is attending Marist College and is enrolled in the Honors Program. He plans to major in Biomedical Science and minor in Business Administration.

Steven is the son of Steven Rizzo, an Engineer for Barclays Capital at 745 Seventh Avenue (Rockefeller Group). He has been a member of Local 94 since 1986.

Julia Trantel
While attending East Rockaway High School in East Rockaway, NY, she was the secretary of the school orchestra, a member of the National Honors Society as well as an A.P. Scholar from the College Boards. She was a competitive ballroom dancer, and the stage manager for the school’s musicals. Julia is attending the Fashion Institute of Technology in Manhattan where she is majoring in Advertising and Marketing Communications. She is pursuing a career in Public Relations and Marketing.

Julia is the daughter of James Trantel, an Assistant Chief Engineer for ABM Engineering at the National September 11th Memorial & Museum. She has been a member of Local 94 since 1988.

Julia Trantel
Michael Agovino
Samantha Fowler
Dayna Herling
It was John who led me into Local 94 and for that, I am truly grateful. Thank you, John for all your years of service, support and fine leadership. You are the best!
Scholarship Dinner Dance
Engineering a College Degree into your Local 94 Career Path

When Local 94 Training Fund initiated the College Degree Program 10 years ago goals were simple. Local 94 wanted to provide an opportunity for skilled and motivated engineers to earn a degree to enhance their career opportunities. There are hundreds of Local 94 members who have unrivaled engine room experience and skills, but find themselves unable to advance for the lack of a college degree. Through the courses offered through the CUNY Murphy Institute, the New York City College of Technology, the members of Local 94 have been able to incorporate academics into their technical skills. It took Lennox Edwards six years of study, but in 2012 Edwards, the Chief Engineer at Covenant House, became the first member of Local 94 to earn a Bachelor’s degree under the program. Over the past couple of years Ralph Riopoli earned his Associate Degree in Environmental Control Technology; Brent McCoy acquired a Baccalaureate Degree in Facilities Management; and Howard Styles earned his Associate Degree in Environmental Control Technology.

Joining that group representing the Class of ’15 is Luis L. Rivas, who will graduate with his Baccalaureate Degree in Facilities Management; and Louis Rispoli earned his Associate Degree in Environmental Control Technology; and Brent McCoy acquired a Baccalaureate in Environmental Control Technology; and Howard Styles earned his Associate Degree in Environmental Control Technology. For those who may be interested in pursuing a degree, there are some attractive incentives:

- Under the program members of Local 94 who complete the core training program, the Energy Conservation Course and the Mechanical Drawing Course can be awarded 15 credits toward an Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree in Environmental Control Technology from NYCCCT;
- Credits from the AAS Degree can then be applied to Bachelor of Technology degree in Facilities Management;
- Local 94 students are eligible for a tuition reimbursement for up to 30 credits upon completion of the Associate in Environmental Control Technology or Bachelor of Technology in Facilities Management programs.

New Course Offered at Training Center

The Training Program is introducing a Plan Reviews and Effective Operations course from views of Stakeholders’ course. The Plan Reviews and effective Operations course is designed to teach how to read and review plans with a total view of building operations. The instructor is a former director of operations and Senior VP with a major developer. The student will be able to learn how to best serve the interest of the stake holders.

Please visit the Local 94 website for more information on the Training Fund and our programs.

Local 94 2015 Calendar

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10
General Membership Meeting, 6:30 am, 2 pm, and 5 pm, Hotel Trades Council auditorium, 305 West 44th Street
Service Awards Ceremony will be conducted at 5 pm

THERE ARE NO MEETINGS IN JULY AND AUGUST

SATURDAY, JULY 25
Local 94 Family Picnic, Platzl Brauhaus, 127 Cell Hallow Road, Pomonca NY. Contact Kelly Drummond (212) 331-1854

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5
Fall Golf Outing, 8 am, Pelham/Split Rock Golf Course, Bronx. Contact: Mike Gadaleta (212) 245-9649

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7
New Members Meeting, Begins promptly at 4 pm,

WEDNESDAY, SEPTMEBER 9
General Membership Meeting, 8:30 am, 2 pm, and 5 pm, Hotel Trades Council auditorium, 305 West 44th Street

THURSDAY, MAY 7
Local 94 Retirement Seminar, 4-7 pm, Hotel Trades Council auditorium, 305 West 44th Street

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11
Local 94 Spring Golf Outing, 8 am, South Shore and LaTourette Golf Courses, Staten Island. Contact: Jack Redden (212) 245-7935

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13
General Membership Meeting, 8:30 am, 2 pm, and Celebrations for John Kramer, 4-7 pm, Hotel Trades Council auditorium, 305 West 44th Street

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3
Initiation Ceremony for New Members, Begins promptly at 4 pm, Hotel Trades Council auditorium, 305 West 44th Street

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10
General Membership Meeting, 6:30 am, 2 pm, and 5 pm, Hotel Trades Council auditorium, 305 West 44th Street
Service Awards Ceremony will be conducted at 5 pm

Be sure to visit the Local 94 website at www.local94.com for updates