



# THE CUTTING EDGE

Spring 2018 | Vol. 26, No. 1

NEWSLETTER



## Stand Up! Fight Back! Make a Difference

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## Business Manager's Report

# The Power of One! Hope Will Rise From Chaos and Despair

### Brothers and Sisters,

The headlines are as ominous as they are frightening: U.S. Supreme Court ruling in Janus v AFSCME Could Cripple Labor Unions; 17 Killed in Florida High School Shooting; Russians Penetrated US Voter Systems, Top US Official Says; Another Trump Official pleads Guilty in Mueller Probe.

We wake up in the morning and wonder, what next?

We know we can't continue on this path. We can only sustain these hits for so long. We should all be grateful for the Founding Fathers who built a system which has allowed us to withstand the Civil War, the Great Depression, two World Wars and countless other challenges.

It is also a tribute to the American people. Throughout history when faced with a crisis the people of this nation who arrived from the four corners of the earth, comes together and stands as one. Sometimes it takes a little longer for everyone to get on the same page, but it happens. And, it is during our most trying times new leaders arise.

A cigar maker from Lower East Side emerges to create the Federation of Labor, a black woman takes a seat in the front of a bus, and helps bring an end to segregation. We never know where or when those leaders materialize. Somehow, thankfully they always show up.

Today they arrived in the form of the students from Parkland, Florida. Having lived through the slaughter of 17 of their classmates and teachers at the hands of an angry young man with a weapon of war, they stood united to send a clear message to the nation. "No More!"

We have seen their rallies and demonstrations from the state house in Florida to the Capitol in Washington, DC. They are heard on news shows and quoted in newspapers and magazines. They dominate social media.

Their message is not only being heard around the country, it is resonating around the world.

And, their voices are being heard.

No matter how you feel about the Second Amendment, no one needs weapons of war for hunting or self-protection.

Now after nearly 20 years of mass shootings from Columbine to Sandy Hook to Las Vegas to Parkland, the calls for a strengthening our gun laws are finally being heard.

Because the kids from Parkland stood up the Florida Legislature voted to enact a waiting period to purchase a gun, and prohibited the sale of long rifles to anyone under the age of 21. Less than a week later the bill was signed into law.

Their actions have also initiated similar movements throughout the county. Movements that have led to the introduction of tougher gun laws in nearly a dozen other states.

### Standing Up For Unions

Late last month the Supreme Court of the United States heard arguments in Janus v. American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME). The case centers on the longstanding precedent allowing public sector unions to collect "agency fees" from union-covered employees who do not wish to join the union.

Janus argues that those fees violate his First Amendment rights to free speech, because the union takes positions he does not support.



Robert Ray/AP

*'Like the students in Parkland, West Virginia's teachers said: "No more!"'*

While this case is currently limited to public sector unions, should the Court side with Mr. Janus, it would, much like Right to Work laws have serious ramifications for all unions.

That is why, on the Saturday before the Court heard those arguments union members from across the metropolitan area held a solidarity rally in Foley Square. I want to express my thanks and gratitude to our brothers and sisters within Local 94 who turned out and made sure our voices were heard.

Hopefully they resonated in Washington.

However, with the conservative majority sitting on the Supreme Court there is sense Janus will prevail by a 5-4 vote. To be honest there was not much optimism within the union movement in the days following the hearing.

Then something stirred in the hills of West Virginia. The state's 20,000 school teachers — who earn an average of \$45,000 a year — and had not had a raise in four years went on strike. After years of cuts to West Virginia's education budget and an increase in the teacher's contribution to the medical plan, the teachers had enough.

So, like the students in Parkland, West Virginia's teachers said: "No more!"

Immediately after the walkout Governor Jim Justice offered the teachers a 1-percent raise for the next five years. According to the New York Times when the teachers factored in inflation, the raise amounted to a 5 percent cut.

The teachers turned it down. After a

Teachers celebrate after West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice and Senate Republicans announced they reached a tentative deal to end a statewide teachers' strike by giving them 5 percent raises.

series of negotiations Justice returned with an offer of 5% increase per year. In West Virginia, Justice did not have the final word. Because West Virginia is a right-to-work state the teachers do not have a collective bargaining rights so the deal needed legislative approval.

The West Virginia legislature, which never saw a tax cut they didn't love, or a wage increase for state workers they couldn't abide, decided to cut the proposed raise to 4%.

The teachers refused to go back to work.

The teachers walked picket lines, held rallies and spread their story throughout the state and across the county. They would not go back to work without that 5% raise.

Finally, after nine days, Justice and the legislature agreed to the 5% increase. The teachers apparently taught the governor a valuable lesson. "We have to move away from treating education as some necessary evil," said Justice. "Education is a process and an investment in our future."

As for the teachers, Katie Endicott, a high school English teacher told the Times: "We come from an area that is known for standing up for what they believe in. We're just reviving the movement that was started years ago."

It is a movement we in Local 94 and union men and women everywhere should be committed to keep alive!

*In Solidarity,*

*Kuba J. Brown  
Business Manager and  
Financial Secretary*



Ray Macco

## No Hesitation in Manhattan Chief's Response to Florida Hurricane S-O-S

As the longtime Chief at one of lower Manhattan's American Express Tower on Vesey Street, Joe Longa, knew he was among the lucky ones when Superstorm Sandy roared through in 2012. "We had some water in the basement, but it was certainly nothing crazy," Longa recalled. "We were lucky." Longa knew the damage and dangers so many Local 94 chiefs and engineers had to contend with to bring their buildings back to life. So, when Hurricane Irma roared through Florida, seriously damaging the newly opened Florida Headquarters of American Express, Longa volunteered to fly down to help.

Located in Sunrise Florida, the 400,000 square-foot glass and steel structure stretches nearly 600-feet long, had opened to great fanfare in January. The state-of-the-art building housed 3,000 employees and along with work stations featuring game rooms, a putting green, a fitness center, a wellness center, along with a daycare center and a playground.

Amenities and mechanicals mean nothing to a hurricanes and the Sunrise building was being battered.

"The storm was still in play when I was asked if I would go down and help deal with the damage. I was told we were going to fly down as soon as the storm cleared," Longa recalled. Within hours Longa and three senior leaders of the facilities team were aboard the company jet. Arriving sometime around 10:30 that night, the team went directly to the building to assess the damage. "It was a category five hurricane. The chillers were down, the UPS room was destroyed by the water, the alarms were ringing and there was water everywhere," Longa recalled. "As if the storm wasn't bad enough, the sprinklers had gone off and were running for 20 hours."

By 2:30 a.m. the next morning the team



Chief Joe Longa recalls his emergency response to Florida in wake of Hurricane Irma.

*'It was a category five hurricane. The chillers were down, the UPS room was destroyed by the water, the alarms were ringing and there was water everywhere.'*

had disabled the alarms, and developed a game plan. "We were back at 7 am."

As it turned out, the assigned chief for the building was on vacation, and so it was Longa who took charge when the regular crew arrived. "We knew what had to be done. We concentrated on the board in the UPS room. Between the electricians, the crew and the people from the recovery team, we started getting things together within a couple of days." Getting things together meant getting the two chillers running, getting the water out of the conduits

in the UPS, replacing all the sheetrock, and restoring the damage in the child care area. "We were basically working the entire week, Monday through Saturday," said Longa. He had no complaints.

"I knew we had people here, the property owners gave their blessing, so I was comfortable with going down. We were good. The people in Florida were dealing with their own situations at home. "We've done it before. We've sent down a bunch of guys in the past. This time I went down to help take care of it."



Tom Hart

## Leadership, Training, Commitment Make Local 94 the Choice for Fisher Brothers

With the multi-million dollar retrofit at 605 Third Avenue reaching its final stages, Jack Whalen III, General Manager for Fisher Brothers, can't say enough good things about the Local 94 engineers who are helping bring the project to fruition.

The building which first opened its doors more than 50 years ago has seen its share of improvements over the years. VFD installations, refrigerant conversions, and BMS upgrades to name a few. At this point in time however, Whalen was faced with a decision regarding the two 1,300 ton steam powered Worthington chillers that provide cooling to the 1 million square foot building. Long term operation and maintenance was a great concern due to the lack of readily available Worthington compressor parts.

Working with the building's Local 94 chief and engineers as well as outside consultants Whalen and his team developed a plan to upgrade the systems and improve efficiencies.

"You just have to look at the history of Local 94 going back to the 1960's. They ran things manually and mastered the technology as it became available. There are no better operators and technicians in the industry," said Whalen. "We are big believers in putting trust in the guys who know our buildings and how to best operate them."

That belief was rewarded in a nearly two-year, hands-on project coordinated by Chief Engineer Brendan Murphy, Assistant Chief Mike McCormick, and engineers Rich Fonseca, Sean Dunne, Efrain Aller, Raymond Spezzacatena, Chris Bondy, and Assistant Engineer John Donnelly, Jr.

According to Whalen among the most important decisions was whether to replace or retrofit the chillers. When one of the engineers noted they would never find machines that were as well made and robust as their Worthington's, Fisher Brothers opted for the retrofit. "We challenge our guys to look out for



*'There are no better operators and technicians in the industry.'*

what's out there and come to us so that we can go to ownership with what makes sense," said Whalen.

Working in two phases, 605 Third Ave., now boasts two high efficiency low operating cost chillers – one electric and one steam.

"What is happening here is what happens at our 299 Park Avenue, Park Avenue Plaza, and 1345 Avenue of the Americas buildings. It starts with the leadership of our chiefs and assistant chiefs and works all the way down the chain to the helpers," said

Whalen. Various improvements around the Fisher Brothers portfolio have included a new ice plant, state of the art chiller control panels, energy control valves, BMS system enhancements, the installation of VFD's and efficiency motors, and high efficiency steam insulation. "What is most impressive is that a great deal of that work was done by our crews," said Whalen.

"Fisher Brothers is proud to be in the building industry. These are the guys who take care of our assets."



*Mike Gadaleta*

## Shooting for Silver, Local 94 Team Strikes LEED Gold at Heron Tower

When Joe McCausland was named building manager of Heron Tower, a 30 year-old boutique office building at 70 East 55 Street his challenge was to upgrade an aging mechanical system. Never one to turn down a challenge the one-time Local 94 Training Center instructor, along with his Chief Engineer Tai Jance, faced the task head-on.

Opened in 1987, the Heron Tower is a 27-story, 154,000 square-foot commercial building providing full floor tenant controlled HVAC, direct electric, and numerous other amenities.

The first step was a full basement to rooftop floor-by-floor assessment. “We looked at everything,” said McCausland. While he knew there was a lot of work to done, McCausland met with the managers at Cushman & Wakefield, and the Takenaka owners and outlined a plan and set a target: LEED Silver.

Today, only two years into their efforts McCausland and Jance have long passed their LEED Silver goal and earned LEED Gold honors.

According to McCausland it started with the replacement and upgrading of the interior and perimeter A/C units. “It was a building that opened in 1987, so even with regular upgrades and maintenance we still had 15 years of catch-up,” McCausland explained.

Beyond the new units, a BMS system was installed. “That was a real game-changer,” said McCausland. “We were finally able to obtain and track what was happening. Before we installed that BMS there was no automation of any kind in the building.”

The energy savings were so startlingly apparent McCausland was amazed. “Once the BMS went live, we were able to see the change within three months! Consumption was going down, and Energy Star numbers



Chief Engineer Tai Jance and Building Manager Joe McCausland.



were going up. We could clearly see the progression,” McCausland exclaimed.

Based on the rapid turnaround McCausland wanted now wanted to move

the target. He called for a meeting with C&W and the Takenaka ownership to explain what he and Jance were seeing. “Once they were aware of what was happening, the decision was made to go for LEED Gold.”

“Not only did they embrace the idea, they engaged all of the tenants in the building,” said McCausland. “They let everyone know what we were doing.”

So while Jance was installing low flow fixtures and faucets, and overseeing the new lighting fixtures and VFD’s on the condenser water pumps and cooling towers, tenants were watching their energy costs drop.

As the energy bills fell, the Energy Star rating continued the rise. “It was something to see. Watching that Energy Star going from somewhere in the 60’s to 79 and beyond,” said McCausland.



*Jack Redden*

## Three Schools; Two Hands; & a Smile: Just Another Day in Spring Creek

For some workers dealing with a single supervisor is too much to bear. So how does Local 94 Fireman Yanni (John) Galatulas feel about answering to a trio of school principals and dealing with nearly 1,600 students every day? “I love it! I love every minute of my day. I love it here,” said Galatulas who has been doing just that for the past five years at K-422 in Spring Creek, Brooklyn.

Opened in 2012, K-422 is home to the three distinct schools. The K through 12 Spring Creek Community School; the Academy for Writers High School; and a D-75 special education program. Each distinct school having its own floor and space.

Whether he is walking down a hallway, or on the staircase Galatulas knows, greets and is greeted with a hello and a warm smile. Be it a students, parent, teacher, aide or principal, everyone knows “Yanni.”

Born and raised in Greece, Galatulas arrived at K-422 as the Temco Building Manager when the building first opened. “When they had the switchover the principal asked me to stay, I wasn’t sure what I was going to do,” he recalled.

“Then I met with the people from the union. I learned about the benefits, the pension, the annuity, but it was more than that. The people I met in the union, they made me feel like family,” he said. “It has only been a little more than a year, but I know I represent the union here. I am not going to let them down.”

By any measure Local 94 could have not have a better representative than Yanni Galatulas.

“I don’t really like to talk about myself, but for me my goal is to work the next 10-15 years to do my best to make this school better for everyone,” said Galatulas. “That goes beyond keeping it cool in the summer and warm in the winter. It’s looking around, talking to people, and seeing what needs to be done.”

Often that means coming in on weekends, arriving early or staying late. “I don’t mind the



Spring Creek Educational Campus in Brooklyn; Local 94 Fireman Yanni Galatulas in the pump room.

*‘My goal is to ... make this school better for everyone. That goes beyond keeping it cool in the summer and warm in the winter. It’s looking around, talking to people, and seeing what needs to be done.’*

hours,” confessed Galatulas. “When you’re are doing what you love, you never work a day in your life.”

His efforts haven’t gone unnoticed. “I’ve been in schools where you can never find anyone who can help you if there’s a problem with something in the building,” said Spring Creek Assistant Principal Jeffrey Hammer. “That’s not the case with Yanni. Sometimes I see him here on weekends, where else do you see that?”

“To me, it speaks to how much he cares for the building and the people who come here

every day. You can see it. He’s always thinking of ways to make things better,” added Hammer. “He cares.”

Principal Aiden Stern, of the Writers Academy agreed. “He is really all about the kids. He’s always working to create a safe, secure environment. He really cares about the comfort and care and maintaining the physical plant.

“He puts in the time, he listens and he is very serious in caring for the environment. He cares.”

# Local 94's Scholarship Honorees



*Antonio Bonomo*

## *Antonio Bonomo*

Antonio is the son of Gennaro Bonomo, a Fireman for the NYC School Support Services. He has been a member of Local 94 since October 2001.



Gennaro Bonomo

A graduate of the High School for Construction Trades, Engineering and Architecture in Ozone Park, Antonio received multiple senior awards including excellence in mathematics, foreign language, and citizenship. He was recognized on the Gold Honor Roll through all four years of high school. Antonio actively develops computer programs and fixes peoples' computers

Antonio will be attending New York Institute of Technology where he will concentrate on studies in electrical engineering.

## *Isabella Feeney*

Isabella is the daughter of Patrick Feeney, an Assistant Chief Engineer for SL Green. He has been a member of Local 94 since September 1989.



Patrick Feeney

A graduate of Clarkstown High School North in New City, N.Y. Isabella was a member of the National Honor Society as well as the Math, Science, social Studies and English Honor Societies. She was a varsity fencer, as well as the founder and president of the Book Club.

She was the head of the electrical design and building for the Clarkstown first Robotics Team who won the Rookies All-Star Award at the Hudson Valley Region Competition.

A Gold Award Girl Scout, she volunteers as a member of the Congers-Valley Cottage Ambulance Youth Corps and St. Paul's food cupboard.



*Isabella Feeney*



*Samantha Nathan*

## *Samantha Nathan*

Isabella is attending Worcester Polytechnic Institute as a Unity Scholar studying engineering.

Samantha is the daughter of Stephen Nathan, a Chief Operating Engineer for Silverstein Properties. He has been a member of Local 94 since March 1990.



Stephen Nathan

While attending Kings Park High School in Kings Park, N.Y. Samantha was involved in National Honor Society, National Art Honor Society, Italian Honor Society, Newspaper and Yearbook.

She received a Presidential Scholarship from the University of Delaware as well as a Principal's award from her high school.

She was president of her church youth group, GOYA, (Greek Orthodox Youth of America) where she volunteered many hours towards community service, such as feeding the homeless, organizing collections for those in need.

Samantha is attending the University of Delaware where she is studying Chemistry.

## *Nicholas Zaromatidis*

Nicholas is the son of Nick Zaromatidis, an Engineer for Vornado. He has been a member of Local 94 since October 2008.



Nick Zaromatidis

While attending H. Frank Carey High School in Franklin Square, N.Y. Nicholas was the president of his Model United Nations, Future Business Leaders of America and Mock Trial club. He has received awards for his debating and oratory skills at various model United Nations conferences. He placed first in the Business Calculations event and third in the Impromptu Speaking



*Nicholas Zaromatidis*

Competition at the Future Business Leaders of America State Leadership conference. He was recognized as National AP Scholar by the College Board.

Nicholas was also a tutor to many of his peers and taught an After-School Model United Nations class at his local elementary school; and worked for a state assembly member.

Nicholas is attending Fordham University here he is studying International Political Economy. He plans to pursue his graduate studies in public policy.

## *Domenique Catalano*

Domenique is the daughter of Domenick Catalano, a Mechanic at Stuyvesant Town/Peter Cooper Village. He has been a member of Local 94 since July 2007.



Domenick Catalano

While attending Easton Area High School in Easton, Pennsylvania, Domenique was the Student Council President and a member of the National Honor Society, Latin Honor Society and the Yearbook Staff.

She was captain of both her high school filed hockey team and her local club team, while also maintaining her position as Easton's female Student-Athlete representative to the Lehigh Valley's High School Athletic Council. Dominique was a volunteer coach and NJ/PA certified field hockey referee for grades 2-6.

She also volunteered at two different health networks.

Domenique is attending West Chester University's pre-medical program with a pharmaceutical product development major.

## *Bartholomew Considine*

Bartholomew is the son of Joseph Considine, a Property Manager and Chief Engineer for Jones Lang LaSalle. He has



*Domenique Catalano*



*Bartholomew Considine*

been a member of Local 94 since May 1990.

While attending Croton-Harmon High School in Croton-on-Hudson, N.Y., he was Co-President of the Teen Leadership Council and designated a National Merit Scholar and AP Scholar with Honor.



Joseph Considine

He participated in Destination Imagination – a team-based program designed for elementary through university-level students centered on creativity, problem-solving and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) principles.

He was recognized for work in the school's French Exchange programs and more than 1,000 hours of dedication to community service. Bart is an Eagle Scout, an Altar Server for his local church, and active in the youth group.

Bartholomew is attending Boston University and plans to study Mathematics, Computer Science, French and Spanish.

## *Mark DiSpigna*

Mark is the son of Markvito DiSpigna, an Engineer for Cushman & Wakefield. He has been a member of Local 94 since August 1991.

While attending Communications High School in Wall, NJ, Mark served as both the President of the Student Government Association and the Vice President of the Cultural Communications Club. In his junior year, he was inducted into the National Honor Society and was an active member of his school's drama program. He also tutored a group of math students during lunch time.

Outside of school, Mark volunteered at Allaire Community Farm where he helped to



Markvito DiSpigna



*Mark DiSpigna*



*Jonmichael Aracena*

organize events for special needs children and assisted patients at an HIV/AIDS center in Asbury Park.

Mark is attending Stevens Institute of Technology and plans to major in Quantitative Finance.

## *Jonmichael Aracena*

Jonmichael is the son of Marve Aracena, a Fireman at

M-189 in New York City for NYCSSS. He has been a member of Local 94 since October 2005.

He was a three season athlete and captained the track team to several Borough championships. As Senior Class President he was a constant presence in the student government. His love of theater brought him to the drama club and a lead role in Fiddler on the Roof.

Jonmichael is attending Boston University and is exploring a career as a clinical psychologist.



Marve Aracena

## *Morgana Haub*

Morgana is the daughter of Gerhard Haub, an Assistant Chief Engineer for Cushman & Wakefield at 390 Greenwich Street. He has been a member of Local 94 since September 1983.

While attending Arthur L. Johnson High School in Clark, New Jersey, Morgana was a member of the National Honor Society and the International Thespian Honor Society.

She was also a member in the local Gay-Straight Alliance. She was a member in the Speech and Debate Club and was involved in the Science Olympiad. She volunteered heavily in the Key Club, Girl



Gerhard Haub



*Morgana Haub*



*Melissa Sobanko*

Scouts and the New Jersey Special Olympics.

She was awarded the Girl Scout Silver Award as well as the Girl Scout Distinguished Service Award. She received the Key Club Gold Award and the Presidential Service Award.

Morgana is attending Boston University's College of Arts and Sciences and is considering pursuing either archeology or medicine.

## *Melissa Sobanko*

Melissa is the daughter of James Sobanko, a Lead Engineer for Jones Lang LaSalle/ Goldman Sachs at their property located at 200 West Street. He has been a member of Local 94 since May of 1991.

A graduate of Pocono Mountain East High School, Melissa was a member of the National Honor Society and the Spanish

Honor Society. She received the Distinguished Honors Award-Excellence in Graphic Design and Digital. She was the lead defense advocacy lawyer for the Monroe County Lawyer's Bar Association Mock Trial

Invitational where her team was awarded First Place. She was a member of the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science, and the Pocono Medical Center Spirit Girls.

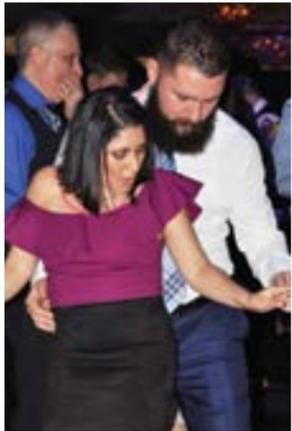
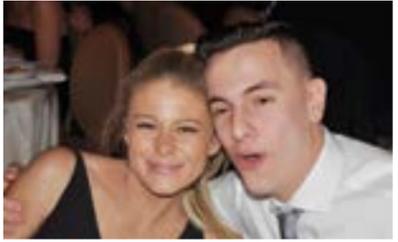
A Girl Scout Ambassador, she also involved helped organize fundraisers to raise awareness of the importance of positive body image, benefit The Women's Resources of Monroe County. She has volunteered at the Grace Park Senior Center, Salvation Army and St. Matthew's Church.

Melissa is attending Fordham University as an Integrative Neuroscience major and plans to pursue a degree in Clinical Psychology specializing in Forensics.



James Sobanko

# Scholarship Dinner Dance





*Kelly Drummond*

## Local 94 Team at Brooklyn 1 Hotel is as Diverse as Brooklyn Itself

As a magnet for bringing diverse collections of people together, hotels have been the inspiration for storytellers going back to the Canterbury Tales. Fast forward 600 years to Brooklyn, where a new story is being written in the engine room of the Brooklyn1 Hotel is now unfolding.

In this story the tale is not being told in the lobby, restaurant or lounge. This story is being written in the engine rooms. It is here where a Hispanic woman, Yanela Arroyo, is the Director of Engineering overseeing a diverse engineering crew from the four corners of the globe and backstories to match.

Watch Engineer Nyima Choenyi was born in Tibet. Hector Berisha is from Albania. Arnel Malachi learned his trade in the US Army, Lead Engineer Jefferson Paulino was an auto mechanic, while John Cespuaglio worked at deli-counter before enrolling in engineering classes.

Today they, along with Franco Palma and Atiq Newaz have all been united and organized under the Hotel Trades Council labor agreement as members of IUOE Local 94-B.

Even as this diverse group is still learning to familiarize themselves with the 195-room hotel, they are also learning about what it means to hold a union card. "When it comes to the union we're like babies," said Paulino. "We need to be fed. We need to learn what it means."

They are sure to learn what it means by attending union meetings.

Engineering-wise, they are responsible for operating and maintaining a waterfront hotel which opened its doors with LEED Certification. "Technically we could be silver certified but we have submitted for the plaque for gold," said Arroyo. With mechanical heat recovery units, VFD's and multi-stacked chillers, a cooling tower, energy efficient lighting, the use of organic materials to harvesting and recycling rainwater for Brooklyn Bridge Park, and an energized "hands-on" crew all make LEED Gold a reachable target.

As for the hotel, its location in the heart



Above, left to right, Jefferson Paulino, Nyima Choenyi, Yanela Arroyo, and John Cespuaglio. Left, Nyima Choenyi and Jefferson Paulino in the tool room.

of Brooklyn Bridge Park, there are spectacular views of the skyline and East River Bridges and the Statue of Liberty. With each room boasting floor-to-ceiling windows no one is cheated on panorama. There is also no shortage of amenities throughout the hotel. Dining options range from the full service Osprey Restaurant to the Neighbors Café which offers picnic-style faire. There is also a cocktail lounges in the

lobby, on the 10th floor and in summer and outdoor roof-top lounge complete with swimming pool is open.

And, as Malachi explained the military education he received at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, carries well beyond the engine room. "Working in a hospitality environment, that military experience plays to good effect when dealing with the different personalities in a hotel."



*Howard Styles  
David Hawkins*



The sky view of the newly constructed Training and Education Center outside Houston, Texas.

## \$100-Million Texas Center Validates IUOE Nationwide Commitment to Training & Education

After years of planning and two years of construction the International Union of Operating Engineers is about to open the doors to its \$100-million state-of-art Training and Education Center outside of Houston, Texas.

As International President James T. Callahan explained in an interview with the Association of Equipment Managers, "it's to everyone's benefit to expand the pool of highly-trained, technologically-savvy equipment operators. We have heard the appeals of employers all around the country who are having a hard time getting enough qualified workers on their job sites, and the only way to meet that demand is by creating new, cutting edge opportunities to receive training."

With that focus on the future the IUOE reached out to local Training Coordinators, including Howard Styles, to help plan and develop a facility which would meet the needs of our members and rapidly evolving technology with the industry.

"We have heard the appeals of employers all around the country..." International President James T. Callahan

The result is a sprawling 235-acre facility with some 200,000 square-feet of classrooms, administrative buildings, mechanical

*'We have heard the appeals of employers all around the country who are having a hard time getting enough qualified workers on their job sites, and the only way to meet that demand is by creating new, cutting edge opportunities to receive training.'*

— International President  
James T. Callahan

shop, warehouse, and a 227-room dormitory. At the heart of the campus is the 179,200-sf two-story administration/dormitory building with two attached three-story dormitory wings. The Administration Building will house administrative offices, a ballroom that can be divided into eight large classrooms, dining facilities, a commercial kitchen, and a three-story dormitory wing.

The overall site is comprised of exterior

teaching areas, secured equipment fenced areas, gravel and paved roads, retention ponds, landscape, hardscape, parking lots, and pool/deck areas.

Built with a goal of LEED Gold, the center includes a 12,380-sf central plant building.

The building facilities will have built in redundancy for key aspects of the physical plant to allow Stationary Engineers to have hands-on training in real world conditions such as large chillers.

According to IUOE Chief-of-Staff Joseph Giacini the first classes are scheduled to start early next month. The official grand opening will happen sometime in June.

Once in full operation the training and conference center will host train-the-trainer classes, journeyman upgrade training, and apprentice training. In addition, the facilities will be used for organizer training, new Business Manager/Business Agent training, and educational meetings for contractors, government officials, and local union and International representatives.

Located in Crosby, Texas, the facility is in close proximity to major airports in the Houston area. The Texas Gulf Coast region is at the center of the oil and gas industry and its offshoots such as pipelines and the petrochemical industry.

# Local 94's Toy Drive

Nothing can really tell the story any better than the faces of the children when they first see Santa Claus sitting on the stage surrounded by a mountain of brightly wrapped toys. It is a moment of pure magic.

For the children of Hell's Kitchen a great deal of that magic comes from the generous hearts of the members of Local 94. "Local 94, they are our angels. That was one of the first things I was told when I came to Hartley House a decade ago," explained Nicole Cicogna.

"All I knew was that I had to go to membership meeting where they were collecting toys. I walked into the room saw all those toys stacked on the stage. I was overwhelmed," Cicogna recalled. "I thought, there's no way all of these for us!"

## Annual Toy Drive Once Again Brings Christmas Joy to Hell's Kitchen

Well, Cicogna was right about that. The toys collected by Local 94 are distributed to both Hartley House and St. Malachy's Church on West 48th Street. Then again, it's not as if any of those children in Hell's Kitchen are shortchanged.

According to Cicogna some 75-85 children all between the ages of 5 and 12 years ago, who

participate in the Hartley House after-school program are presented with gifts from Santa. "Because of the overwhelming generosity of Local 94, each child receives at least two or three gifts. And, because some of these children have siblings who come to the Christmas party, we also have at least one gift for them. Those guys at Local 94 are amazing. They even bring us Santa Claus," she said.

"It was five years ago for various reasons we didn't have a Santa to hand out the toys. When I told Jack Redden he told me not to worry. Every Christmas since that phone call, Joe Hartnett, an engineer at Rockefeller Center, has put on his red suit, welcomed them with a grand smile and filled their open arms with gifts, and Hartley House with joy!"



L to R: Charlie Hohmann, Joe Hartnett (Joe is also Santa), Jack Redden, and Andre Stana, outside Hartley House after dropping off the Christmas gifts.





*Ginger Hourihan*

## Be Sure to Maintain the Beneficiary Information on your Annuity Account

If you die before or during commencement of your Annuity benefits, your Individual Annuity Fund Account will be paid to your designated beneficiary. In the absence of a beneficiary designation or if no designated beneficiary is living at the time a benefit becomes payable, your beneficiary will be your surviving lawful Spouse, or if you have no Spouse, your Estate. That is why it is important to take a few moments now to ensure that the beneficiary listed on your account is in accordance with your wishes for these important benefits.

Perhaps you had a recent life change that would require you changing your beneficiary. Even if there have been no changes and you think your beneficiary information is correct, we strongly encourage you to take a moment to review your account to ensure that the beneficiary information on file is current and accurate.

You can check your beneficiary information by calling 800.294.3575 or by visiting the website at [mylife.jhrps.com](http://mylife.jhrps.com) and accessing your account online. Once you have logged in, select 'Menu' at the top right and a list of options will appear. Under the category 'About Me' select 'My Profile, Beneficiaries & Settings'. Once on the Profile, Beneficiaries & Settings page, select the 'Beneficiaries' tab to view or modify the current beneficiary on your account. Once you have completed the beneficiary designation online, if needed, a confirmation form will be mailed to you to sign and have notarized. You must complete the confirmation and return it to John Hancock in order for it to become effective.

### Married Participants

If a participant is married, his or her spouse is their beneficiary for the Annuity Fund. All members are urged to also name a Contingent Beneficiary for the Annuity Fund in the event



*'Ensure that the beneficiary listed on your account is in accordance with your wishes for these important benefits.'*

your spouse passes away before you or with you. Married participants may name a person other than their spouse as a beneficiary for all or part of your Annuity Fund account, provided the spouse agrees to waive his or her rights to this benefit.

When you marry, provide a copy of your marriage certificate to the Annuity Fund Office. In the event you divorce you must provide the Fund Office with a copy of your divorce papers. Should your spouse pass away, you must provide the Fund Office with a copy of the death certificate. In each of these circumstances, you should be sure your beneficiary designation is current and accurate.

### Single Participants

You are urged to name a Primary Beneficiary and a Contingent Beneficiary so the proceeds of your account are distributed to the person(s) you choose. Participants should be aware that when no beneficiary is named the account will be payable to your Estate.

If you need assistance with confirming or modifying your beneficiary information, you may speak to a representative of John Hancock by calling 800.294.3575 from 8am to 10pm EST. The Fund office cannot change your Annuity Fund beneficiary, but if you have any questions, you may call the Annuity Fund at 212. 245.7040.



*Kathy Fister*

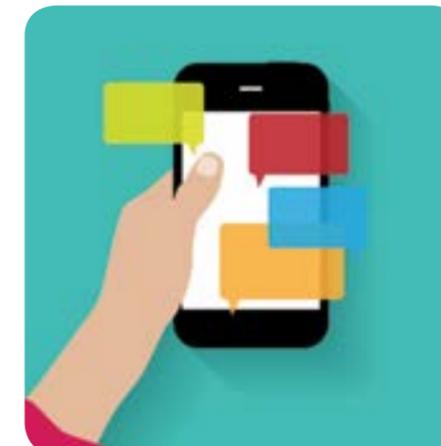
## We're Going Mobile! Are You Ready?

I.U.O.E. Local 94, 94A, 94B and the Affiliated Funds have launched two important new services—an online I.U.O.E. Local 94 Member Portal and text messaging. Both new services are in response to requests from you, our members and participants. Keep an eye on our website ([www.local94.com](http://www.local94.com)) for the latest updates.

### Online Member Portal

The I.U.O.E. Local 94 Member Portal allows members and participants the ability to view basic demographic information, as well as access Sick Fund information, including being able to review current balances, past contributions and recent disbursements. Over time, the I.U.O.E. Local 94 Member Portal will be expanded to provide you with access to various other information and benefits materials.

In order to access the I.U.O.E. Local 94 Member Portal, you must have a personal e-mail account on file with the Union and Funds. Your personal e-mail account will serve as your login and will be the e-mail address that is used to communicate with you regarding the I.U.O.E. Local 94 Member Portal. Please update your Contact Information Form to make sure we have the correct email address for you. You can find the Contact Information Form on the Forms page of our website in the Local 94 Forms section.



### Text Messaging

The I.U.O.E. Local 94, 94A, 94B and the Affiliated Funds also started a text messaging program to provide the latest news and updates to members and participants. The goal is to provide important updates to you in a timely manner. We will NOT be sharing any of your information with any entities outside of the Union and the Funds.

Before you can receive text messages from us, you must provide express written consent to join the program—and make sure we have your current mobile phone number. Once we receive your written consent, you will start to receive communications from us. You can choose if you want messages from the Union and all of the Funds—or from just one or some of our entities.

You will only need to provide us with the authorization once, and it will last for as long

*The I.U.O.E. Local 94, 94A, 94B and the Affiliated Funds started a text messaging program to provide the latest news and updates to members and participants.*

as you are a member or participant—or until you decide to opt out of the text messaging program.

If you have not already completed the Contact Information Form consenting to join the program please update your Contact Information Form to provide us with your consent to join the program and your mobile phone number. You can find the Contact Information Form on the Forms page of our website in the Local 94 Forms section.

### Keep Your Information Up to Date

In order to take advantage of these two new services, you need to make sure we always have your current email address and mobile phone number. If either changes, make sure to update your Contact Information Form and send it in to us as soon as possible.



Patricia Sheehan

# News on Dues

## How Dues Is Calculated

Your monthly dues are calculated by multiplying your hourly wage by 2.50. When your hourly wage increases, your monthly dues increase as well. Maximum monthly Dues are \$90.18 in 2018, any member earning \$36.07, or more, per hour owes the maximum.

## Important

Members who have completed a Dues Check-Off should always check paystubs to ensure that your employer is withholding your dues and doing so at the proper rate. If you are unsure if the amount is correct, call the Union Office and the staff will be happy to assist you. Remember, if your employer is not calculating your dues properly, there is a chance they are also not reporting the correct amount to the Sick Fund.

## Please Remember

Even if you are on Dues Check-Off, dues are your responsibility. If your employer fails to withhold your dues or does not withhold the proper amount, you are still responsible for the unpaid dues. And a delinquency notice will be mailed to you. If you believe it is in error and/or you have copies of paystubs which verify the employer withheld your dues, please contact the Union Office and the staff will review it with you. Failure to respond to a delinquency notice for dues will result in a notice to appear before the Executive Board. Failure to rectify the matter and/or appear before the Executive Board will result in your Suspension from the Union, and in accordance with the by-laws of the Union, removal from the job.

## Do We Have Your Correct Address

You are required to have your current address on file with the Union Office. If you move, or have a change of phone number and/or email address, you must supply it to the Union Office in writing. No changes will be accepted over the phone. You may obtain the form on the website at [www.local94.com](http://www.local94.com) or by stopping in or calling the Union Office at 212-331-1800. If you have an email address, please be sure to supply it. Any change in contact information requires the fully completed form which includes an effective date and member's signature.



## A Word About Payroll Audits

The Benefit Funds are required to ensure that employer's report all benefits they are required to pay on behalf of employees covered under the collective bargaining agreement. To comply with this, routine payroll audits are conducted on behalf of the Benefit Funds. The Fund records of hours reported are compared with the employer's payroll records to determine if there is any discrepancy due to error or omission. These audits often find hours unreported due to an error, or lack of understanding of the terms of the collective bargaining agreement. This is a routine process which the majority of employer's readily comply with. Should an employer refuse an audit or fail to provide the required records to perform a payroll audit, an arbitration hearing is scheduled to resolve the matter. Members are encouraged to always check their paystubs and ensure that they have been paid for all of the hours due. This includes Hours Worked, Floating Holidays and Holidays (refer to your contract for covered Holidays).

# Union Dues Still Deductable On Your 2017 Federal Return

New York State will Allow the Dues Deduction on 2018 State Returns. New tax code change in New York State allows union members to deduct dues on next year's taxes.

While much has been made of the Trump/GOP Tax Cut, the president and the legislators who created it have made no bones over the harm it does to union members. The new tax may have doubled the standard deduction to \$24,000 per couple; but it eliminated the deductions for among other things, mortgage interest and union dues.

However, you can still take the union dues deduction on your 2017 federal return.

Although union members will be losing the dues deduction on their federal next year, members who live in New York State, will be able to take the deduction on their 2018 state return.

State Senator Diane Savino, Vice Chair of both the Senate Standing Committee of Finance and Codes is again reminding constituents if they are in a union in New York, they will be able to deduct their dues and shop fees on their taxes next April.

"It is important to be mindful of this year's tax changes as we are all headed to our accountants before the April deadline" said Senator Diane Savino (Staten Island/Brooklyn). "If you are a middle class New Yorker in a union, this is another way you can save. This is something myself and the Independent Democratic Conference (IDC) worked tirelessly on, and we are excited to see the results."

This tax break is estimated to help over 500,000 New York Union Workers save approximately \$35 million each year.

As union rights have become increasingly under attack, Senator Savino and the IDC have lead the way in historic legislation to protect working class rights.

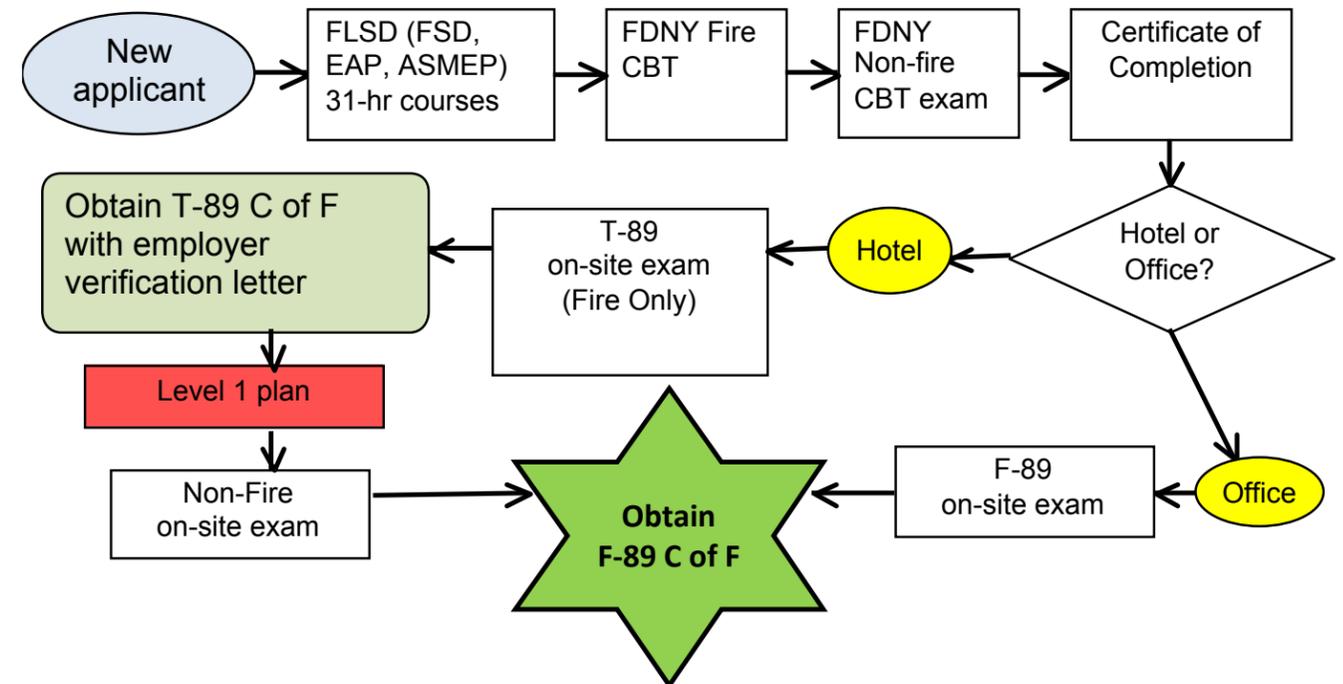
# FIRE LIFE SAFETY DIRECTOR COURSE

The Training Center has introduced new procedures and classes toward the FDNY's FLS Director Certification. Fire Safety/Active Shooter Medical Emergency Preparedness (FS/ASMEP) Classes are already underway. There is still time to register for the Emergency Action Plan Director Course (EAP) which will begin May. All courses will of course be offered again in September along with the new 31 hour Fire Life Safety Director Course.

## Candidate Categories

## Component(s) of the FLS Director curriculum

Brand new candidates	31- hour FLS Director courses (3 components)
Candidates who failed the FDNY Fire Component CBT twice	20-hour "FLS Director: General Topics and Fire Emergency" course
Candidates who failed the FDNY Non-Fire Component CBT twice	11-hour "FLS Director: Non-Fire Emergencies EAP + ASMEP" courses (2 components: 7 hours and 4 hours)
All current F-85 C of F holders	7-hour "FLS Director: Non-Fire Emergencies EAP" course
All current F-25/F-58/F-59 C of F holders	4-hour "FLS Director: Non-Fire Emergencies ASMEP" course





IUOE Local 94, 94A, 94B  
International Union of Operating Engineers  
331-337 West 44th Street  
New York, NY 10036

## Local 94 2018 Calendar

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 2018 *General Membership Meeting*

8:30 AM, 2 PM, and 5 PM  
Hotel Trades Council Auditorium  
305 West 44th Street.

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 2018 *General Membership Meeting*

8:30 AM, 2 PM, and 5 PM  
Hotel Trades Council Auditorium  
305 West 44th Street.

**MONDAY, APRIL 16, 2018**  
*Chiefs Meeting* – 5 PM – All Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs are urged to attend. UFT Auditorium, 52 Broadway.

### MONDAY, APRIL 30, 2018 *Deadline for Scholarship Applications*

– Visit Local 94 website: [www.local94.com](http://www.local94.com)

Click on Scholarship Fund Tab for more information.

### MONDAY, MAY 14, 2018 *Local 94 Spring Golf Outing*

8 AM – South Shore and La Tourette Golf Courses, Staten Island. Contact: Jack Redden (212) 245-7935.

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 2018 *General Membership Meeting*

8:30 AM, 2 PM – Hotel Trades Council Auditorium, 305 West 44th Street.

*Special Note:* The 5 PM Meeting will be held at Beacon High School, 522 West 44th Street (between 10th and 11th Avenues).

### THURSDAY, MAY 17, 2018 *Retirement Seminar*

5 PM – Representatives from the Local 94 Pension, Health & Benefit, and Annuity Funds; the Social Security Administration, Stacey Braun Associates, and J.W. Thompson, provide information and answer questions for those preparing to retire. Spouses are welcome. Hotel Trades Council Auditorium, 305 West 44th Street.

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 2018 *Initiation Ceremony for New Members*

4 PM – New members who were notified and paid the \$100 application bond who attend the meeting will be refunded the \$100 application bond. Hotel Trades Council Auditorium, 305 West 44th Street.

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 2018 *General Membership Meeting*

8:30 PM, 2 PM, and 5 PM – Hotel Trades Council Auditorium, 305 West 44th Street. Service Awards Ceremony will be conducted at 5 PM.



### NO MEETINGS SCHEDULED IN JULY AND AUGUST

### SATURDAY, JULY 28, 2018 *Local 94 Family Picnic*

Fountain Springs Country Club, 234 Conklintown Road, Ringwood, New Jersey. Please note: No personal food, coolers, alcohol or other beverages will be permitted; No alcohol or smoking will be permitted in the pool area; All Tickets must be purchased in advance. No Tickets will be sold at the door.

For tickets please call Kelly Drummond (212) 331-1800.

### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2018 *Local 94 Memorial Mass*

Local 94 will remember and honor our fallen brothers and all who lost their lives during and after the September 11, 2001 attacks with a Memorial Mass at St. Malachy's R.C. Church, 239 West 49th Street. 10:30 AM.

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2018 *General Membership Meeting*

8:30 AM, 2 PM, and 5 PM  
Hotel Trades Council Auditorium  
305 West 44th Street.

### MONDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2018

*Fall Golf Outing* – 8 AM, Split Rock

Golf Course, 870 Shore Road, Bronx.

Contact:

Henry Augustine (212) 751-4036;  
Tom Hart (212) 245-7942; or  
Kelly Drummond (212) 331-1854.

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2018 *Initiation Ceremony for New Members*

4PM – New members who were notified and paid the \$100 application bond who attend the meeting will be refunded the \$100 application bond. Hotel Trades Council Auditorium, 305 West 44th Street.

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2018 *General Membership Meeting*

8:30 AM, 2 PM, and 5 PM  
Hotel Trades Council Auditorium  
305 West 44th Street.

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2018 *General Membership Meeting*

8:30 AM, 2 PM, and 5 PM  
Hotel Trades Council Auditorium  
305 West 44th Street.

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2018 *General Membership Meeting*

*Holiday Toy and Coat Drive*  
Members are encouraged to bring a new toy or “gently worn” coat to be distributed to local charities – 8:30 AM, 2 PM, and 5 PM – Hotel Trades Council Auditorium, 305 West 44th Street.

Visit the Local 94 website at [www.local94.com](http://www.local94.com) for updates