

# THE CUTTING EDGE

# Local 94

Volume 18 Issue #1  
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## Funding for Political Action is Critical



by **Kuba Brown**

Under the City's Fire Code, an Operating Engineer must be physically present in buildings where chillers over a certain size are operating. During the lazy days of summer 2006, a small group of design engineers, mechanical engineers and certain non-union consultants concerned with profit, rather than safety, were able to convince city council members that the presence of Operating Engineers 24/7 is no longer necessary.

New York City legislation number 418 of 2006, supported by the Mayor's office and many New York City Council Members, would have been devastating to the members of IUOE Local 94. The following is a direct quote from this legislation:

"Under the City's Fire Code, an Operating Engineer must be physically present, and thus employed full-time, in buildings where chillers over a certain size are operating –

this level of oversight is known as "personal supervision." While there may have once been a fire safety rationale for this expensive requirement, fire safety experts have discounted personal supervision as an unnecessary relic. In contrast, for smaller chillers, only "general supervision" is required, meaning that an Operating Engineer remains responsible at all times for the functioning of the equipment, but need not be physically present on the premises. When public or private sector New York City building owners install new chillers, standard practice is not to utilize large, energy-efficient electric centrifugal chillers because using these chillers necessitates the substantial expense of personal supervision. Instead, building owners routinely opt for either multiple small, less efficient chillers or chillers are not installed at all in favor of package direct expansion (DX) air conditioning systems, both of which only require general supervision. The smaller chillers and DX air conditioning systems (typically utilizing reciprocating or scroll type compressors) typically use 0.7 to 0.85 kilowatts of electricity per ton of cooling, while

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a centrifugal chiller typically uses 0.5 to 0.57 kilowatts of electricity per ton of cooling – a 20-40% difference in energy consumption. Accordingly, the Council finds that it is reasonable and necessary to only require the general supervision of new chillers.”

This legislation was not passed into law because of the political action operation of this Union. It's more important than ever that these activities be supported by member contributions.

As the Mayor's office works closely with design engineers, mechanical engineers and certain non-union consultants in the real estate industry, legislation continues to be introduced harmful to members of Local 94 and even the public. If the economy worsens, more bills will be initiated to save money by eliminating labor costs in buildings. If the movement to legislate the removal of supervision of equipment by engineers is successful, hundreds of jobs will be eliminated.

Our political action program is financed by voluntary member contributions. This is critical to our survival. Politics plays an important role for a labor organization. During contract negotiations, political pressure is often a necessary component of the process. Legislation is sometimes needed to improve working conditions. Harmful legislation needs to be prevented from becoming law. Funds may be necessary to pay for mailings and advertising.

Many elected officials favor big business and are against the right of workers to be members of a Union and negotiate a contract. There is a movement by some public officials and anti-worker organizations across the country to eliminate overtime pay and worker benefits. The utilization of PAC funds is essential in backing legislators that are pro-union and supportive of issues important to workers: fair contracts, decent wages, health care, pension benefits and job protection.

*It was the week before Christmas. But at Hartley House, Santa was ready early, thanks to the Members of Local 94. Your gifts had a huge impact: the joy is on the childrens' faces.*





# Local 94 Goes Political

Local 94's leadership has access to top political officials because of the power generated by our Political Action Committee (PAC). Union members' funds are put to good use, making sure that lawmakers in the City, in Albany, and in Washington know our agenda. Just as important as introducing new legislation is working to prevent harmful bills from becoming law.

From top left: Local 94 Business Manager and President Kuba Brown meets with Governor Paterson. VP Tom Costello joins Kuba to discuss current events newly elected Congressman Michael McMahon. At right; Kuba with Attorney General Andrew Cuomo and, at far right, with former Gov. Mario Cuomo.



## A Dues Reminder

- **If at least one hour is reported for the month on any job within the I.U.O.E. Local 94 bargaining unit you will owe full dues for that month.**
- **Anyone working two jobs in Local 94's jurisdiction will pay the maximum dues in the month where two jobs are reporting hours.**
- **The maximum dues for 2009 are \$71.00.**
- **It is very important to hold onto your pay stubs in case a dispute arises regarding your pay or any deduction taken from your pay.**

## Jesus Manuel "Manny" Estrada, 1947-2009

**M**anny Estrada, for the past 12 years a Trustee on the Local 94 Executive Board, passed away on January 23rd at his home in Old Bridge, New Jersey. He was 62. Manny's duties at Local 94 included assisting business representatives with many tasks, including our annual picnic, golf outings, and our dinner dance.

Manny was a member of I.U.O.E. Local 94, 94A, 94B, for 36 years. Born in Bayamon, Puerto Rico, he came to New York City at the age of three. He lived in Queens Village. After High School, he joined the U.S. Army, serving two years, one in Vietnam.

Upon his return, he began work at Rockefeller Center in 1968 as a helper, obtained his NYC Operating Engineers license, and through the years has worked all locations in twelve buildings and seven refrigeration plants.

He also held the position of shop steward at Rockefeller Center. Manny is survived by his wife of 39 years, Lucia Estrada of Old Bridge; a son and a daughter-in-law, Mark and Nancy Estrada, a daughter and a son-in-law, Melissa and David Ward, a brother

and sister-in-law, George and Anna Estrada, and two grandchildren, Isabella and Elena. Manny was one of three generations of his family to belong to Local 94. He will be sorely missed. The family has requested that donations in his name be made to the IUOE Local 94 Scholarship Fund.







# A Special Section



## Local 94 Taking the Lead in Green Tech

by Mike Gadaleta and Kelly Drummond

Green Tech is all about energy efficiency. There's a lot of talk these days about green jobs. The Union has many — and there is much more work to do in retrofitting old systems and making sure new systems are working within specifications. If the world is going to avoid a catastrophic sea level rise, America and other countries must pump less carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. That means we have to use less energy from fossil fuels, and use it more efficiently. These Local 94 operated projects are showing the way.

December 2007 marked the beginning of demolition of the chiller plant at the Grand Hyatt New York. Previously, the chiller plant consisted of two 1000-ton York water chillers, three chilled-water pumps, three condenser pumps and three cooling towers on VFD high efficiency motors (with a combined cooling capacity of 2600 tons).

The chillers, three chilled-water pumps, and three condenser pumps were all replaced during the renovation. Four compressors and one air handler were replaced and a plate and frame heat exchanger was installed. The safety and ventilation systems were also upgraded.

The two 1000-ton water chillers were 26 years old and very inefficient when operated at reduced loads. They would not start at temperatures below 50 degrees F, especially in the spring and fall seasons. The operational cost (R-500 is a CFC) and the inefficiency of the plant warranted the upgrade.

Three 700-ton Trane CenTraVac high efficiency



chillers replaced the York chillers along with high efficiency condenser pumps and chilled water pumps on

**At the Hyatt, Union Representatives tour the physical plant, discussing the equipment with our crew on the job.**





# Grand Hyatt Green Savings are \$300K

VFD's. The addition of the heat exchanger has further increased the efficiency of the system by allowing very cheap cooling as needed in the winter, without starting a chiller. The Trane chillers have a IPLV of 0.534 kW/ton which is better than ARI Standard 550/590-98 of 0.564 kW/ton. Integrated Part-Load Value is a weighted average of efficiency measurements at various part-load conditions, as described in ARI Standard 550/590-98. These weightings have changed substantially from the previous standards, ARI 550-92, lowering the IPLV ratings by 10-15% for the same equipment.

The high efficiency of the chillers, pumps, and HX add up to an annual savings of \$294,093.00 and provide year round cooling for client functions and guest needs. The plant is charged with an environmental friendly HCFC refrigerant in the industry's lowest emission chillers. The plate and frame heat exchanger went online in March and the chillers soon after. Comparing electrical usage this summer with 07:

1. June is 82,400 kW less this year
2. July is 57,600 kW less this year.

The average kilowatt was figured at \$0.186, adds up to \$26,039.60 for two months.



## Educating Our Chief Engineers

Howard Styles, Local 94 Training Director, and Zach Stern, Local 94 Instructor, presented an overview of the extensive Local 94 Training Program. They covered the Mandatory Program (all engineers are required to complete this curriculum) and several of the voluntary courses. The goal was to insure that all of the Chief Engineers completely understood the depth and relevance of the education being offered so they can bring this awareness back to the crews in the building who may not realize the opportunity that is available to them.

The focus was on the advanced, voluntary course offerings including: Chief Engineer, Energy Conservation, Indoor Air Quality, Critical Systems, Green Technology, Emergency Evacuation for First Responders, and Fire Safety Director/EAP.

The presentation was well received by all attendees and generated significant interest in continuing education for the engineers, particularly in the areas of Energy Conservation, Green Building Technology and Indoor Air Quality. These disciplines are important for

meeting the current needs and future NYC mandates regarding the performance

of commercial, industrial and institutional facilities in New York City.



**Kuba Brown addresses the Engineers; Brown with NYCOSH Executive Director Joel Shufro, and with Councilman Miguel Martinez.**





## Editor's Corner

By Thomas Costello

In the southeast corner of Queens, lies a twenty building, cooperative complex with 5,860 apartments called Rochdale Village. Built in 1965, Rochdale is the second largest housing cooperative in the United States. Co-Op City in the Bronx is the largest.

Rochdale Village was designed to be a "city within a city" with a garden-like setting. Among the buildings lies a power plant which provides electricity, heat, air-conditioning and hot water not only to the apartments but also for two shopping malls within the complex. The Rochdale power plant is energy self suf-

ficient. Totally off the grid without any connection to a utility company.

Operating a power facility of this magnitude is an enormous responsibility and Local 94 is very proud of the thirty-one union members that maintain the plant. For the most part, all of the preventative maintenance and project work is performed by in-house personnel. Those jobs include turbine overhauls, boiler and diesel engine repairs, absorber installation and repairs, and the maintenance of all auxiliary equipment associated with the aforementioned.

The plant is equipped with four high-pressure boilers (100,000 lbs per hour at 600 lbs psi), two steam turbo generators and four diesel generators with a total capacity of twenty-five megawatts. The plant uses natural gas and number two fuel oil in its steam generators (approximately 200,000 gallons of number two fuel oil and twenty-five million cubic feet of gas per week).

The facility has been upgraded in several areas including new boiler controls and new air conditioning. At every step of plant improvement personnel have been involved. Through the years plant efficiency has significantly improved. New absorber units have dramatically reduced steam consumption during the air con-





# The Jewel of Jamaica



ditioning season by twenty-five percent. The dual temperature water circulation has been streamlined for a savings of ten percent in the kilowatt load. The cooling towers have been upgraded and now operate more efficiently resulting in reduced water consumption.

It's certainly appropriate that Local 94 play a major role in the Rochdale Village complex considering this cooperative was founded by the United Garment Workers in 1965. Prior to the construction of the development, the property was the site of Jamaica Racetrack.

We are pleased to announce that a four-year contract was recently ratified between Local 94 and Rochdale Village. A special thanks is ex-



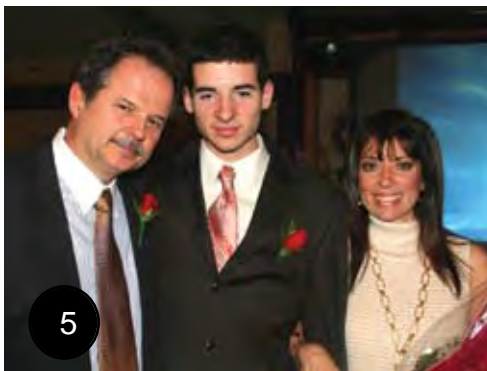
tended to Owen Hanlon, Chief Engineer and Lenny Corette, Assistant Chief Engineer, for providing information for this article.







# Scholarship D Proud Paren



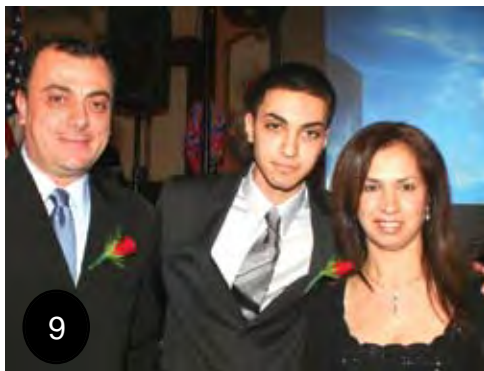
On January 9, 2009 a record number of Local 94 members turned out for an outstanding event in support of the IUOE Local 94 Scholarship program. Through the tremendous support of our membership for the past thirteen years, we have been able to award scholarships to many worthy recipients. Since its inception, Local 94 has provided one hundred and five scholarships of \$8,000.00 each to the daughters and sons of our union brothers and sisters. This year almost 800 members and friends joined us at Russo's on the Bay to honor those receiving our 2008 scholarship awards. The event was spectacular and dancing continued until the wee hours of the morning.

This year's recipients included:

1. Sara Bassford, the daughter of James Bassford, who works as a Helper at Vornado Realty Trust and has been a Local 94 member since July 1996. Sara is presently attending C.W. Post College.
2. Matthew Bilotti, the son of Matthew Bilotti who works as an Engineer at Williams Real Estate and has been a Local 94 member since July 1978. Matthew is attending Richard Stockton College of New Jersey.
3. Christina Curcio, the daughter of Vincent Curcio who works as an Operations Manager at the Crowne Plaza for Grubb and Ellis and is a Local 94 member since October 1985. Christina is attending Adelphi University.
4. Emily Elliot, the daughter of Brian Elliot



# Dinner Salutes nts, Students



who works as an Assistant Chief Engineer for Vornado Realty and is a Local 94 member since March 1982. Emily is currently attending Binghamton University.

5. Teddy Feaser, the son of Ted Feaser who works as a Chief Engineer-Building Manager for Security Equity and has been a Local 94 member since September 1981. Teddy is currently attending Pace University in Manhattan.

6. Deirdre Horan, the daughter of Michael Horan who works as an Engineer for Colliers ABR and has been a Local 94 member since February 1999. Deirdre is currently attending Wentworth Institute of Technology.

7. Jessica Natale, the daughter of Joseph Natale who works as an Assistant Chief for Hines Interest and has been a Local 94 member since May 1999. Jessica currently

attends Cornell University.

8. Nicholas Pesce, the son of Sam Pesce who works as Director of Engineering for Goldman Sachs World Headquarters and has been a Local 94 member since May 1984. Nick currently attends SUNY Genesco.

9. Ahmed Rifai, the son of Samir Rifai who works as a Mechanic in the Engineering Department for the Four Seasons Hotel and has been a Local 94 member since September 1994. Ahmed is currently attending Lubin School of Business at Pace University.

10. Lewis Savarese, the son of Lewis Savarese who works as an Engineer for American Buildings Maintenance and has been a Local 94 member since May 1987. Lewis is currently attending Emerson College.







# Murry Bergtraum Gives Off Steam

by Jack Redden and Ray Macco

On Tuesday January 13, we visited Murry Bergtraum High School for Business Careers at 411 Pearl Street in Lower Manhattan, adjacent to the Brooklyn Bridge and City Hall. Bergtraum has almost 3000 students.

While this is a large facility it has a reputation for excellent maintenance. Heat, air conditioning and hot water are generated through a sophisticated steam system that is carefully maintained by Local 94 members. We were provided a grand tour of the building by Building Custodian Steve Monez and Local 94 members Fireman Frank Favata and Fireman Martin Giove.

Several times each day every aspect of the apparatus is checked by our members and a checklist is recorded. As we examined the steam system and its components, the great skill of our members working at the school was demonstrated. The steam system is complicated and a thorough knowledge is necessary to ensure the equipment operates at peak capacity.

Frank and Marty are careful to operate the steam system at maximum energy efficiency. They described, step by step, how carefully they monitor the system and explained the many possible problems that must be anticipated. The machinery is located in several locations on several floors. It was impressive watching our members work closely with the building custodian.

The level of expertise was impressive. We watched as our local 94 members checked every aspect of steam system: steam main pressure, hot water temperature, DHW circuit pumps, emergency diesel generator, re-heat water temperature, etc. They looked at fans, checked for leaks, examined air compressors and condensation pumps as well as power panels.

The visit was enlightening and educational. Building Custodian Steve Monez was a former Local 94 member and was very supportive of his extremely competent team. He along with Frank and Marty were very open about how they maintain the steam engine and other machinery at peak performance.





# Chillin' at Credit Suisse



by John Kramer

Credit Suisse, a leading global investment banking and financial services firm, has New York City's largest ice storage based air-conditioning system, which delivers dramatic energy savings. The engineers who make it possible are Local 94 members. The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NY-SERDA) helped fund the project, which has lowered 11 Madison Avenue's peak energy usage by 900kW, reducing electric usage by 2.15 million kWh, while delivering improved site resiliency.

The Local 94 operators are challenged with determining optimum performance of the system based on outside ambient conditions and building load. Since peak demand periods dictate the equipment run time, the operators are tasked with adjusting set points and start and stop times according to the building load profile. Maintaining the correct balance between plant capacity and the building load is different each day.

Melting ice also increases the resiliency of plant operations during the free cooling season. Ice can be melted in lieu of a starting a chiller when ambient conditions are marginal. It is the operator's responsibility to keep the tanks fully charged every day before 8AM. Having the tanks available to satisfy partial loads reduces otherwise significant energy requirements and facilitates plant operation.

Trane Company, with the help of ECM, proposed a thermal storage solution that

Dan Dwyer (Helper), at left, with John Smyth (Engineer). Reverse return piping ensures system balance. Below, the men with the Trane CVHF Centravac low temperature ice chiller. Below right: Dino Kulanusorstitt (Assistant Chief) stands with one of 64 storage tanks by CALMAC.



shifted electrical load from daytime to nighttime when electricity is more plentiful, less expensive and generated more efficiently. The system also reduced consumption and demand via a more efficient low flow/low temp chilled water operation, and an expanded free cooling season made possible by the Ice System's ability to facilitate the transition between free cooling and mechanical cooling.

The new system configuration consists of three 800-ton Trane CenTraVac® Chillers and 64 IceBank® Thermal Storage Tanks from CALMAC. In addition to the energy savings cited earlier, the environmental benefits from this thermal storage system are equivalent to Credit Suisse taking 235 cars off the streets or planting 320 acres of trees to absorb the carbon dioxide caused by electrical usage for one year. The system also provides energy reliability for the City's power grid, since thermal storage systems



are seen as a viable method of shifting the peak electric demand for cooling permanently from on-peak to off-peak hours, as noted by the New York City Energy Policy Task Force in a report to Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg.

NYSERDA presented Credit Suisse with a ceremonial check in the amount of \$820,000 representing the amount of the incentives provided by NYSERDA through its New York Energy Smart Commercial and Industrial Performance Program, and Peak-Load Reduction Program.





# Finance

by Jay Thompson

## What Do You Do In A Volatile Stock Market?

It's no secret that the stock market was down in 2008. Down might be an understatement, it was down big-time! As of 12-31-2008, the loss for the year was -38.48% as measured by the S&P 500 Index(1).

So what do you do when the stock market looks so bleak? Do you sell and run for cover? Or, do you stay put and wait for better times? If we only had a crystal ball that we could turn to for guidance on what to do! No one knows what the future will bring. But we can get a good measure of confidence by looking at the past to see what has happened when we've faced similar circumstances.

When the stock market has a prolonged period of good performance, it is called a "bull market". When the market has a period of poor performance, it is known as a "bear market". Over the past 60 years, there have been 12 bear markets lasting an average of 14 months and declining a total of 22.4% before recovering. By contrast, there have been 12 bull markets since 1948 that lasted an average of 45 months, each growing an average of 123.9%.

This is reassuring but why wouldn't you sell your stock funds now and buy them back when economic conditions look better? Although selling may make you feel better in times of stock market turbulence, the fact is that market gains have more than made up for losses for investors who stayed invested over time. A \$10,000.00 investment in the S&P 500 Index in 1988 would have grown to \$72,000.00 by June 30, 2008, despite the 43% downturn of the market from 2000 to 2002 (2).

Sure this sounds convincing but you may still be thinking that it would be better to move in and out of the stock market when circumstances warranted. The problem with this thinking is that there is no fool-proof



way of deciding when to get out and when to get back in again. What often happens is that people who exit the stock market miss some very good days when the market snaps back. Is this a big deal? It can be!

Here's an illustration of how important it can be to stay invested in the stock market, even during difficult times. During the 25 year period, (06/30/1983 to 06/30/2008), if you stayed invested in the stock market, (Dow Jones Industrial Average), your average annual rate of return was 12.39% (3). But, if you missed only the 10 best days in the stock market, out of approximately 6250 days during those 25 years, your average annual rate of return dropped to 9.94% (3).

The difference between those two rates of return may seem slight, but if you invested \$10,000.00 in the Dow Jones Industrial Average over that entire 25 years, you would have about \$78,000 LESS if you missed the 10 best days in the stock market.

Should you have questions concerning the investments in your individual account, or would like to take advantage of "**Retire Rite**," our comprehensive investment analysis program, please feel free to contact John or Jay Thompson at (888) 453-1869. As retirement plan consultants for the Local 94 Annuity Fund our services are independent of both Putnam Investments and those of the Local 94 Annuity Fund, and are available to Plan participants free of charge.

1. [www.standardandpoors.com](http://www.standardandpoors.com)
2. Putnam Investments Research, "Three reasons to stay invested"
3. Putnam Investments Research, "Time, not timing is the best way to capitalize on stock market's gains."





## Safety



# Workplace Safety No Accident

by Thomas Hart

The OSHA Act of 1970 was passed into law to make the workplace safe for every worker. Complex legislation was enacted to protect workers in their day to day efforts in the workplace.

Safety in the workplace is no accident. It is achieved through a commitment from both the employer and the employee. While the employer has the responsibility to provide a safe workplace under the law, it is up to us to ensure our own safety.

As engineers, there are hidden dangers throughout our workplace. In all situations, you should proceed with caution. The implementation of such things as personal protective equipment, or proper lock out tag out procedures, will make a huge impact on ensuring a safe work environment.

Local 94 is taking steps to ensure that our members have an understanding of the OSHA regulations which impact on our workplace. On March 12, a representative from the New York Committee for Occupational Safety and Health (NYCOSH) will present a 10-hour certifica-



In Brockton, Massachusetts, in 1905, a boiler explosion killed 58 people. This tragedy was commemorated one hundred years later, in 2005.

tion course at Local 94. There are three mandatory class sessions, and space is limited. Please contact the Training Center for registration information.

Remember — workplace safety is no accident!

# Schools Not Supporting Political Action

by Ray Macco



Our efforts to be recognized by the New York City Comptroller in our fight for pay parity has been a direct result of our newly formed Political Action Fund. However, I am sad to report that the School Division enrollment in the Political Action Fund is dismal. The Political Action Fund is an important part of achieving our goals for pay parity in the public sector as well as comparable titles in the private sector. We need people involved in the PAC fund. We need volunteers for phone banks, cam-

paigns, as well as financial support through your contributions.

I urge you to support the P.A.C. Fund to help further our agenda in our fight for fair pay. At roughly \$4 per month it is hard to find a better way to promote our goals and get the attention of the city council and legislators.

Please contact the Union office and ask for a P.A.C. Fund form. Once you sign the authorization card your employer is obligated to withdraw the money at the same time as your quarterly dues. The contributions will be used to further our political agenda for the future.





# Training



by Howard Styles,  
Director of Training

In these tough economic times, training becomes most important to us. Our value is increased by our skill and our skill is enhanced through training. Our new members are encouraged to learn their buildings thoroughly. Experience and learning is a great combination. We are also encouraging our members who may have that experience to challenge themselves to enhance their careers by finding areas to improve their skill sets. This may require coming back to school and re-taking a course you may have taken in the past or taking a new course. There are many courses from which you can pick and choose that may make a huge difference in your career. The Training Center will be offering a package unit course for members who need a refresher or work in a package unit building and lack the skills necessary to adequately perform necessary tasks on these units.

## **PACKAGE UNIT COURSE**

- February 24th will begin a course designed to familiarize students with the fundamentals of operating and performing service practices on package units. The course runs for five weeks
- This course will be offered at 5PM
- This course will continue on needs basis
- This course is a hands-on course with a small class and 2 instructors. Kuba Brown, Howard Styles and Zach Stern made a presentation to the Real Estate Board of New York (REBNY) on January 13, 2009. There were many individuals in the real estate community who were not aware of the many courses available and provided by the Training Fund. The purpose of this presentation was to inform those in attendance of the various courses available that could help:
  - Cut cost
  - Build careers
  - Improve safety
  - Prepare for the future

We presented an overview of the entire program including mandatory and voluntary programs. We highlighted programs such as:

- Fire Safety Director / EAP
- Critical Systems
- Recycling and Refrigerant Emission Reduction
- Chief Engineer
- Energy Conservation
- Indoor Air Quality
- Green Technology



BOMA asked the Training Fund to provide the same presentation to its members. The Training Fund also made a presentation to the chief engineers on 1/28/09 about our program.

## **OSHA GENERAL INDUSTRY CERTIFICATION**

NYCOSH is an organization that helps workers learn how to protect themselves by teaching them about the hazards in their workplace, and by showing them ways to control and eliminate the dangers. Local 94 Training Fund will be hosting NYCOSH as they provide a 10 hour OSHA general industry certification for our members. The course will start March 12, 2009 beginning at 8:30AM. Register early, class sizes are limited. The course will be provided once a week for three consecutive weeks.

## **NYSERDA HAS AGREED TO HELP LOCAL 94'S TRAINING CENTER DEVELOP PROGRAMS**

- State and local mandates to conserve energy will generate funding for various trainings.
- Local 94 Training Fund already has a relationship with NYSERDA through our building performance lab and green training.
- A benchmarking course is potentially the next course that may be offered through NYSERDA.





# For the Annual Toy Drive, A Big Thank-You

I would like to thank the following members and crews that helped in our Annual Toy Drive for 2008 by sponsoring toy drives at their buildings:

Charley Hohmann and the crew at 52 and 50 Broadway  
Tommy Colleran and Staff at 75 Maiden Lane  
Chris Draheim and crew at 31 West 52<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Matty Navarra and staff at 220 West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street

The following members helped with the delivery of the Toys and Coats:

Charley Hohmann, Ralph Price, Ralph Polese,  
Kevin Nally, Richie Fonseca, and Bobby Zimmer.

Special Thanks to Charlie Hohmann, Tony Grima, Joe Bosco, Steve Castellano and their crews at 50 and 52 Broadway, for a private group donation to Hartley House. These gentlemen got together and donated a Wii system, extra controls and games, as well as a SVGA Projector to be used for the children in the various programs at Hartley House.

I thank all the members and friends of Local 94 who made

donations of toys, used coats and canned goods during the Holiday season, that were split between both Hartley House and St. Malachy's parish.

Thank you to everyone; you brought a lot of happiness to children, families and the elderly, who were facing a very gloomy Christmas Season.  
— Jack Redden



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## Out of Work Due to Illness, Injury?

When you are out of work due to illness or an injury on or off the job, if you work in a Commercial Building covered by the Realty Advisory Board agreement, and have been employed for one or more years, your employer is required to continue to pay employer contributions on your behalf for a minimum of 400 hours and a maximum of 800 hours. For Pension, they are required to ensure that at least 1,000 hours are reported for the year in which an illness or injury occurs.

Regardless if you are ill or injured, on or off the job, the employer must continue to pay your benefits. Also, your monthly dues will be reduced to \$15.75 per month as long as you are out of work. Inform the Union Office if you are out of work so your dues can be adjusted and your employer notified to continue paying benefits for you, for the required employer contributions.

## Check your hourly wage rate!

Members should double check their hourly wage to ascertain if they are being properly paid in accordance with the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Your hourly wage should be listed on the paystub provided by your employer. The wage rates are listed in the Collective Bargaining

Agreement. Report any differences immediately to the person responsible for payroll at your job. If they do not rectify the matter promptly, contact your Business Agent.

If you are a Commercial Building employee and submit a claim for Sick Fund—your daily rate of pay, as reported by your employer, is listed on the check. Simply divide that amount by 8 to arrive at your hourly rate.

If the hourly rate that is reported by the employer is not accurate, then the amount reported to the Sick Fund is not accurate either.

## Do you have a 19-year old attending college?

If so, it's that time of year again—time to provide the Health & Benefit Fund Office a copy of your child's Bursar's Receipt for the Spring, 2009 Term to continue their benefits with the Fund.

In addition, once you file your taxes for 2008, you must submit a copy of your tax return showing your child is still your legal dependent to continue his or her health coverage.

If you have any questions regarding this, please call the Health & Benefit Fund Office, Monday—Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm at 212-541-9880.



# Health Benefits



## Prescription Vendor Changed to CVS Caremark Effective 12/1/08

By Kathy Fisler

The Health and Benefit Fund has changed prescription vendors to CVS Caremark effective 12/1/08. For the most part it was a smooth transition. By now you should have received a new prescription card and a booklet of valuable information pertaining to CVS Caremark. If you have not received your new Identification card please contact the Health and Benefit Fund so we can see why you have not gotten your card.

The Health and Benefit Fund encourages all members and eligible participants to log onto the CVS Caremark website at [www.caremark.com](http://www.caremark.com) or there is a link on the union's website at [www.local94.com](http://www.local94.com) for valuable information. You are able to order your drugs online as well as find out how many refills you have left on a particular prescription. CVS Caremark will respond to you via email letting you know that your drug has been ordered and when it will be shipped. You can also check to see if there are generic drugs available for any prescription medication you have been prescribed.

Please remember if you encounter any problem in obtaining your prescription you can contact Caremark directly at 1-888-769-9054 or the Health and Benefit Fund staff at 212-541-9880.

### Loss of Time Benefit - Off the Job Only - Active Members Only

If you are unable to work, due to an accident or illness off the job, you will receive a net income of \$100.00 per week for up to 26 weeks. The Fund will pay both your share and the employer's share of FICA taxes on this income.

This benefit will begin:

- On the first day of disability due to an accident.
- On the eighth day of disability due to illness.

This benefit supplements any New York State disability benefits to which you may be entitled, as

provided by law, from your employer. The \$100.00 per week benefit will continue for a maximum of 26 weeks during each period of disability, but for no more than 26 weeks for the same or related disabilities within any period of 52 consecutive weeks. Successive periods of disability separated by less than two weeks of continuous active employment will be considered as one continuous period of disability unless they are from different and unrelated causes.

In order to receive these benefits, you must be under the continuous care of a licensed physician and you must be unable to work. The physician or surgeon who is giving you regular care must certify that you are unable to work. If you cannot work because of an off-the-job accident or illness, notify the Fund Office immediately. If you are unable to notify the Fund Office yourself, have someone else do it for you. The proper claim form will be sent to you for completion by you and your physician. Pregnancy will be covered as any other off-the-job illness and benefits will be paid in accordance with the above provisions and in accordance with federal and New York State laws and regulations.

If you are injured on the job you must file a claim for Worker's Compensation with your employer. You are not entitled to the Loss of Time Benefit.

### Medicare Part "B" Supplement Coverage

If you meet the eligibility requirements and pay the required premium to be eligible for benefits as a Retiree and are not yet eligible for Medicare when you retire, please remember that you **must** enroll for Medicare three months prior to your Medicare eligibility date. Medicare will become your primary carrier and the Fund will be your supplemental insurance carrier.

If you meet the eligibility requirements and pay the required premium and you meet the age requirement for Medicare Part B, please remember to enroll for the



Part B coverage three months prior to you retiring. Medicare will become your primary carrier and the Fund will be your supplemental coverage to your Medicare coverage.

**If you choose not to enroll in Medicare Part “B,” you will not be entitled to the supplemental benefits provided by the Fund.**

The Fund office suggests that, if you are getting ready to retire please contact the Fund office to discuss what benefits you are eligible for as a Retiree. We suggest that you speak to a representative from each Fund so you know exactly how your benefits change once you are retired.

## Dental

Reminder: Effective 1/1/08 the individual Dental Benefit calendar maximum is **\$2,500** per covered individual on all Dental Benefits from the Fund.

Note to Participant: A pre-authorization is required for all dental procedures performed over \$500.00. If you do not have a pre-authorization for dental procedures performed and the work is not approved when submitted for payment you could be responsible for the charges.

Please remember that the Fund office is available on a daily basis for any questions or issues concerning your benefits. Simply call (212) 331-1800 or stop by and speak to a representative at the Fund Office.

**The Cutting Edge, the Newsletter of Local 94, 94A, 94B, I.U.O.E., is produced quarterly at the Union's offices at 331-337 West 44th Street, New York, NY 10036. Copies are sent free to Union Members.**

**Editor: Tom Costello  
Associate Editors: Neal Tepel  
and Alan Saly**



# Dental Plan Update

As we come up on 18 months of serving Operating Engineers Local 94 as your dental provider, we hope the experience with Sele-Dent, Inc., has been a positive one for both you and your families. Over the past 18 months, and on a continual basis, Sele-Dent, Inc. works diligently to expand our dental network and provide more dental locations for the participants of Local 94. Sele-Dent, Inc. currently has over 2,000 dental locations, which is an increase of approximately 150 new locations since inception. Please remember, Sele-Dent, Inc. screens each dental provider to ensure the highest quality dental care.

It is imperative to utilize either a Local 94 or Sele-Dent, Inc. participating provider. YES, you can go to any dentist you choose, but in these very scary economic times, why spend additional money when it is unnecessary. If you visit a Local 94 participating provider, **THERE ARE NO CO –PAYMENTS**. If you visit a SELE-DENT, INC. participating provider, there are nominal co-payments.

If you are in need of orthodontic services, please call the Sele-Dent, Inc. toll free number. We can assist you in finding an orthodontist which may provide quality services, while providing substantial savings for you when it comes to your out of pocket expenses. **Sele-Dent, Inc. has a listing of orthodontists who are willing to accept certain arranged fee schedules that charge more than Local 94's orthodontic allowance but significantly less than the standard charges for orthodontic treatment.** Sele-Dent, Inc. has just added five additional Endodontic locations in Northern Westchester and further Northern Counties. Additionally, we are increasing the New Jersey network each day. If you know any dental provider who is not currently on our panel, please call the toll free number **1-800-520-3368 (DENT)**, and we will attempt to solicit this provider for our network. The Sele-Dent, Inc. web-site [www.sele-dent.com](http://www.sele-dent.com) contains a complete list of participating

providers; this web-site is updated daily and also provides directions to all participating locations.

If you are unable to visit the web-site please call the above toll free number and a claims representative will be able to assist you in finding a participating provider. Sele-Dent, Inc. is within 7 – 10 business days on all claims processing and pre-authorizations to better serve you and your families.

Sele-Dent, Inc. not only cares about your dental health but your overall health. We have just published our first newsletter concentrating on the relation of your dental health to your overall health. There is documented proof of the connection of bacteria in your mouth and periodontal disease, and its correlation to heart disease, hypertension, stroke and diabetes. A thorough periodontal screening and proper periodontal health may not only reduce your risks of these health issues but may also contribute in the treatment of such issues.

As we all know, smoking is quite bad for you for numerous health issues. Most people do not realize the affect smoking can have on the gums and jaw bones. According to the Journal of Periodontology, it may be responsible for almost half the cases of periodontal disease in adults. *A scary fact – a pack a day habit costs smokers, on average, two teeth every ten years.* Quitting smoking can greatly reduce your risk of periodontal disease. Even cutting down smoking can greatly reduce these risks.

The above is a small sampling of the recent newsletter published. The newsletter is also shown on the Sele-Dent, Inc. web-site. Additional newsletters are available at the Fund Office. It is an honor to serve the Local 94 membership, and if we may further assist any of the participants, please call our toll free number and our customer service representatives will assist you or your family in any manner. *The Sele-Dent, Inc. regular business hours are Monday – Friday 8:00am thru 4:00 pm.*



# Your Guide to CareMark Benefits

## Commonly Asked Questions

### Q: What will I pay for my prescriptions?

**A.** Your benefit materials typically include information on what you will pay for prescriptions. If you are unsure of your cost, get in touch with your benefit provider or call Customer Care.

### Q: The pharmacist said my prescription was not covered. Why?

**A.** Your prescription benefit program may have certain coverage limits. Check your benefit materials for specific coverage information or call Customer Care.

### Q: Why do my pills look different than before?

**A.** There may be times when a cost-saving generic drug is available to treat your condition. In this situation, you may receive the generic, unless your doctor tells us you must receive the brand-name medicine. A generic drug may look different, but all generic drugs are approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and have the same active ingredients as the brand-name medicines.

### Q: Where can I learn more about my medicine?

**A.** Important information on common medicine uses, specific instructions and possible side effects is included with your prescriptions. If you need additional information, visit Caremark.com or call Customer Care.

## Questions?

If you have any questions about your prescriptions benefits, talk to your benefit provider, call Customer Care, or visit Caremark.com.

### Q: I have questions about my prescription benefit program. Who can I contact for more information?

**A.** Visit Caremark.com to connect with Customer Care or Ask-A-Pharmacist online. You can also call the toll-free number on your benefit ID card or in your Welcome Kit or talk to your benefit provider.

## About Mail Service

### Q: What if I need medicine while I am traveling?

**A.** If you need your medicine shipped to a temporary address, you can let us know by phone, on your order form, or by updating your profile on Caremark.com. If you need more medicine while traveling than the amount allowed by your prescriber or benefit plan (i.e., more than a 90-day supply), contact your benefit office for approval at least 30 days before you need a refill.

## Protecting your health

1. Keep an updated list of your medicines, drug allergies and emergency contact numbers in your purse or wallet. Go online at Caremark.com to print a report of medicines you have received through your prescription benefit program.
2. Check for possible interactions by reviewing the medicines you are taking with your doctor or pharmacist on a regular basis, including herbal and nutritional supplements. Go to Caremark.com and click on the Health Resources tab to check for possible interactions with other prescriptions, food or over-the-counter medicines.
3. Read and follow the safety instructions included with your medicines. For more information, visit Caremark.com to learn about common medicine uses, possible side effects, proper storage and much more.
4. Only take prescription medicines that are prescribed for you.
5. Do not take expired medicines.

## Tips for Saving Time and Money

1. Ask your doctor about generic medicines. Research shows that you can save an average of 30% to 80%\* when you fill your prescription with a generic instead of a brand-name medicine.
2. If your prescription benefit program has a Preferred Drug List, print a copy of the list from Caremark.com and take it with you to your doctor's office. Using medicines on this list may save you and your prescription plan money.
3. Make sure the prescription you receive from your doctor is legible. It should include the patient's full name, the prescribing doctor's contact information, the date the prescription was written, and the prescription details.

## Caremark.com puts the power in your hands

Register today at Caremark.com to actively manage your health and wellness. You will need information from your benefit ID card to register.

### Visit Caremark.com to:

- Order the fastest refills
- Check drug cost
- View prescription history
- Find a participating local pharmacy
- Check interactions
- Contact a pharmacist
- Find health information

\*The amount of your savings will be based on your benefit plan. Source: Generic Pharmaceutical Association Web site: [www.gphaonline.org](http://www.gphaonline.org).

**CVS**  
**CAREMARK**

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[www.caremark.com](http://www.caremark.com)





## ■ Your CVS Caremark Prescription Benefit

Helping you manage your health is essential to what we do at CVS Caremark. It is our goal that you receive the medicine you need to support your health and well-being. Use your CVS Caremark prescription benefit to receive the best in pharmacy care, drug safety and savings.

### Using your benefit ID card is easy

1. Visit a participating retail pharmacy.
2. Present your benefit ID card and prescription to the pharmacist.
3. Pay your portion of the medicine cost.
  - Your pharmacist will tell you the amount you owe depending on your specific prescription benefit plan.

If you do not have your benefit ID card with you, or if you use a non-participating retail pharmacy, you will have to pay the full medicine price and submit a claim for reimbursement.

### Finding a participating retail pharmacy

You can log on to Caremark.com to find participating retail pharmacies in your area. You can also call the pharmacy directly.

### Your safety matters

Each time you fill a prescription at a participating retail pharmacy or through our mail service pharmacy, CVS Caremark checks your personal medicine profile for possible drug interactions, allergic reactions and other safety concerns. If there is a potential problem, we will let the pharmacist know and then, if necessary, we will contact your doctor to discuss the issue.

### The CVS Caremark Mail Service Pharmacy

Your prescription benefit plan administered by CVS Caremark includes the use of a mail service pharmacy. If you take one or more maintenance medicines, you may save time and money with mail service.

#### With the CVS Caremark Mail Service Pharmacy you can:

- Receive an extended supply of medicine
- Enjoy convenient delivery to the location of your choice, with free shipping
- Speak to a registered pharmacist 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- Contact a pharmacist with your questions online at Caremark.com
- Order prescription refills online or by phone any time, day or night

### Getting started is easy!

#### 1. Ask your doctor for a 90-day prescription.

**Note:** If you need your prescription filled right away, ask your doctor to write two prescriptions for your long-term medicines:

- The first for a short-term supply (e.g., 30 days) to be filled right away at a participating retail pharmacy
- The second for the maximum day supply allowed (up to a 90-day supply) with as many as three refills (if appropriate) to be mailed to CVS Caremark

**2. Complete a mail service order form.** You can fill out and print the form online at Caremark.com by clicking on New Prescriptions. Fill out the online form completely to ensure your order is processed promptly.

**3. Mail your order form** along with your prescription(s) and payment in the envelope provided (you may also use your own envelope to mail the form and payment to the CVS Caremark Mail Service Pharmacy address printed on the form). You can pay using an electronic check, Bill Me Later®, or a credit card (VISA®, MasterCard®, Discover® or American Express®). You also can pay by check or money order. Do not send cash.

**4. Allow up to 10 days from the day you submit your order for delivery of your medicine.**

### Convenient mail service refill options

The information you receive with your medicine will show the date that you can request a refill and the number of refills you have remaining.

## 3 ways to refill:

1. Online – Ordering refills at Caremark.com is convenient, fast and easy! Have your benefit ID card handy to register.
2. By Phone – Call the toll-free Customer Care number on your prescription label for fully automated refill service. Have your benefit ID number ready.
3. By Mail – Send your refill request to CVS Caremark at the address listed on the order form. Allow up to 10 days from the day you submit your order for delivery of your medicine. Regular delivery

is free. Overnight or second-day delivery is available for an additional charge.

### Packaged for safety

Your medicine will be mailed to you in plain, tamper-proof packaging. An order form and a return envelope are included with every delivery. All items in your order typically arrive in one package. If an item is not available, CVS Caremark will contact you to determine if you want the available items shipped or held until all items are ready.

### Special handling

Certain items require special

handling and may be shipped by a faster method at no additional cost. In such cases, you may receive a call letting you know your order is being shipped.

- Controlled substances and orders exceeding \$1,200 in value – shipped via two-day delivery service. An adult signature is required for delivery
- Temperature-sensitive items – packaged and sent using special procedures, including ice packs, coolers and/or express delivery when necessary



# Upcoming



# Events

Join us at the 15th Annual Spring Golf Outing!  
Save the Date: **Monday, May 11, 2009 at 7:00 AM**  
For Further Information, contact Jack Redden at  
(212) 245-7935.



Join us for the IUOE Local 94 Retirement Seminar.  
**Thursday, May 14, 2009 from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM.**  
For further information, contact Tom Costello  
at (212) 245-7930.

## LOCAL 94 PIPES AND DRUMS ST. PATRICK'S DAY SEASON DATES



**Saturday March 7<sup>th</sup> Rockaway Parade 1pm**  
**Sunday March 15<sup>th</sup> South Boston Parade 1 pm**  
**Sunday March 22<sup>nd</sup> Pearl River Parade 1pm**  
**Sunday March 29<sup>th</sup> Bay Ridge Parade 1pm**



**BAND PRACTICES EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT 4:30 – 7:30**  
**FREE LESSONS GIVEN ----- CALL JACK 212 245 7935**

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