President’s Message

Saving New York From Itself

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

As we enter into Spring I am reminded about all of the things that make New York City great. In any of the five boroughs we are never more than a short walk, subway ride or drive from world-class restaurants, museums, sports facilities, colleges and universities, theaters and parks. New York truly is a world class city. For many of us it was a great place to grow up, and a great place to live and raise a family. How much longer will families be able to afford it?

Unfortunately, it is becoming increasingly difficult for the working men and women who provide the heartbeat and very essence of New York to afford to live here. Neighborhoods that once provided the members of our and other unions the opportunity to achieve the American Dream of owning a home and raising a family in Bay Ridge, Astoria, Kew Gardens and Pelham Bay are rapidly becoming unaffordable and out of reach to the middle class.

In recent weeks we have watched the Dow Jones Industrial Average hit all-time highs. Regrettably, the Dow Jones Industrial Average reach to the middle class.

‘Working people are paying for the economic crisis in the form of mass layoffs, furloughs, depressed wages and benefits.’

At the same time, last month Forbes Magazine ran a story under the headline “The Greatest Retirement Crisis In American History.” Here is writer Edward “Ted” Steele’s first paragraph. “We are on the precipice of the greatest retirement crisis in the history of the world. In the decades to come, we will witness millions of elderly Americans, the Baby Boomers and others, slipping into poverty. Too frail to work, too poor to retire will become the ‘new normal’ for many elderly Americans.”

This is just the next step in an America where wages, pensions, and union membership are all trending down. While at the same time costs for housing and education are rising at a record pace. It is no mere coincidence that at a time of diminishing wages and benefits, the share of the workforce has fallen to a 97-year low. Last year alone union membership fell by 400,000! Something has gone terribly wrong.

We in Local 94 are fortunate. We have labor agreements that provide good wages and benefits; our pension fund is strong and we have an excellent health plan. They were not handed to us. Our security and ability to provide for our families are the products of years of negotiation. We achieved those successes because those negotiations were supported by a united membership and labor movement. Let us not take what we currently enjoy for granted. What we have today could be gone in an instant.

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We have seen it in Wisconsin, and Ohio, and right here in New York with the School Bus Drivers and Matrons.

While the bankers and brokers were too big to fail and too rich for jail continue to stand together in the relentless pursuit of tax breaks and evasions of labor laws, the working people are paying for the economic crisis in the form of mass layoffs, furloughs, depressed wages and benefits.

If we are going to save our City, those in organized labor must do more than preach solidarity but actually put it into practice. We must once again work in cooperation with all working people to create new alliances with low-wage and under-employed workers and community groups. By creating these new alliances we can elect local officials who will put people before the corporations.

It’s time to work together toward increasing stagnant wages and benefits so that our members and all working people can not only live in New York, but can also afford to retire here. It is time for our members to stop sitting on our hands. It’s time to stand up for those who are also looking to try to earn a decent wage and the right to call in sick. By standing up for ourselves and protecting our future.

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Kuba J. Brown

May 8, 2013

NOMINATE & VOTE

For Local 94 Officers

NOMINATIONS FOR THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS WILL BE ACCEPTED AT THE MAY 8, 2013 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING.

Full details of the procedures can be found on pages 6-7.

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When it came time to upgrade their aging HVAC system in the building that bears their name at 787 Seventh Avenue, AXA Equitable went “all-in.” Rather than making incremental improvements to improve efficiency and cut costs, AXA / Equitable and their CBRE Building Management replaced the building’s entire HVAC system.

In partnership with the Trane Energy Services Team an entire new HVAC system was designed and installed over the course of four-months during the winter of 2011. The original 4,000-ton central plant was replaced with two 1,400-ton high efficiency Chiller, a 1,540-ton Dual Duty electric Chiller and a 45-tank thermal storage system.

“They swung the first hammer in January and the first chiller went on-line on April 7,” said chief engineer Erik Fisk. “The three individual pads that held the old chillers were removed and made as a single pad. We even had to cut out a wall to bring in the new chillers.”

Outside that wall alongside the loading dock are the storage tanks which provide 9,000 tons hours of thermal storage. “We keep them iced all year,” said CBRE General Manager Beck Papraniku. “The tanks have been very effective so we are looking at adding five more.”

Along with installing the new chillers and tanks were three new 200 hp chilled water; and three condenser pumps, two glycol pumps; all new piping and valves; Variable Frequency Drives, and state-of-art BMS. Fisk beam ed when he told a visitor that in the first year of operating the new equipment the Local 94 team of assistant chiefs Ralph Price, and Joe Woodward; lead engineer Ray Torres; engineers Glenn Orgen, Dennis Wein chard, Chris Dadah, Benny Gorenc, Sam Tomuzi, Chris Woods, Martin Byrnes; and helpers Steve Minolts, Eric Silvestri and Kenneth Kaul ran everything manually.

“It was a hands-on operation through that entire first year. Everyone got to see what goes on as it was happening. The hands-on was a wonderful experience.”

“And the fact that everyone was involved and wanted to be involved was very gratifying. It made me very proud,” he said.

The project also provided major savings in energy consumption and costs.

By producing ice at night for daytime use, the system reduces peak-demand utility rates. And according to Papraniku, the building saved 2.5 Million kWh of electricity during the first year of operation.

Overall the new plant increased overall capacity by 340 tons while maintaining the same electrical and machinery footprint. The energy conservation provided is estimated to help reduce the building’s carbon emissions by 2.4 million pounds per year, which is the equivalent of removing 220 cars from the road annually or planting 325 acres of trees.

Located on the east side of Seventh Avenue between 51st and 52d Streets, 787 Seventh Avenue is a 1.8 million square-foot, 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week building. The 754-foot tall, 54-floor tower is home to several restaurants and banks, features a large atrium as well as an athletic club and 499-seat auditorium.

Known as the AXA Equitable Building it is home to numerous banking, investment and law firms including BNP Paribas, Citigroup, Keefe Bruyette & Wood, Willkie Farr & Gallagher and Sidley Austin.
Section Head Here

April 8, 2013

NOTICE OF NOMINATION FOR & ELECTION OF OFFICERS
OF LOCAL 94, IUOE

Dear Brother/Sister Local 94 Member:

Listed below is important information pertaining to the 2013 Nomination for and Election of Local 94 Officers.

1) Officer Positions to be elected

a) Article II Section 1 of the Local 94 Bylaws specifies the following Officer positions to be elected:

Business Manager, President, Vice President, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Recording / Corresponding Secretary, Trustees (3), Auditors (3), Conductor, and Guard.

The Officers who are elected will serve for a term of three (3) years.

b) Pursuant to Article I I I, Section 5 of the Local 94 Bylaws, the Business Manager, President, Vice President, Recording/Corresponding Secretary, Financial Secretary, and Treasurer, shall be designated delegates to the IUOE Convention by virtue of their Local 94 elective office.

c) Elected officers of Local 94 may hold more than one (1) elected position concurrently.

2) Date, Time and Place of the Nominations Meetings:

a) Date: Wednesday, May 8, 2013 — General Membership Meetings

b) Time: 8:00AM — 9:30AM, 2PM–3:00PM, 5PM–6:00PM

At each meeting, nominations shall be made from the floor. All nominations must be made and be seconded by a member in good standing.

c) Place: Hotel Trades Council

305 West 44th Street, Mezzanine Floor

New York, New York 10036 (NW Corner of 8th Avenue)

In the event there is opposition for any Officer position, and it is necessary to have an election, a secret ballot election will be conducted by machine ballot. Listed below are the details of the election:

DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF ELECTION OF OFFICERS

a) Date: Wednesday, August 14, 2013

b) Time: Polling hours will be from 8:00AM to 10:00PM

c) Place: Local 94 Training, Center

331 West 44th Street, New York, New York 10036 (between 8th and 9th Avenues).

The counting of the ballots will take place immediately after the polls close at 10:00PM, at the Local 94 Training Center.

To win the election, a candidate is required to receive a plurality of the votes cast; the candidate who receives the most votes wins the election.

In the event of a tie vote between any candidates, a run-off election will be held on Wednesday, August 21, 2013.

3) Eligibility Requirements to Run for Office

Pursuant to Article II, Section 2 of the Local 94 Bylaws, a member must have been in continuous good standing for a period of one (1) year preceding the month of the nominations meeting. Pursuant to Article II, Section 2 of the Local 94 Bylaws, a member must accept his/her nomination in writing within ten (10) days after being notified of his/her nomination.

In addition, a candidate shall have been in regular attendance at all regularly scheduled Local Union membership meetings held after the nominations and before the elections, subject however to a reasonable excuse based upon good cause such as incapacity or death in the family.

Article II, Section 2 of the Local 94 Bylaws, also mandates that due to the heavy responsibilities of the Business Manager, to be eligible to run for Business Manager, a member must have been in continuous good standing for a period of two (2) years preceding the month of the nominations meeting.

Any member who pays his/her dues by check off (payroll deduction), will not be denied the right to run for office or to vote in the election for reason of non-payment of dues, if the member’s employer has failed to deduct and/or remit the dues payments to Local 94.

Any member who is not on check off and pays his/her dues directly to Local 94 is responsible for maintaining his/her own good standing.

4) Eligibility to Vote

A member must have been in good standing on the date of the election to be eligible to vote.

Pursuant to Article VI, Section 5 of the Local 94 Bylaws, a member is in good standing if he/she has paid all dues, fines, and assessments to the Local 94 within thirty (30) days after such amounts shall become due and payable to Local 94.

5) Winners of the Election

Pursuant to Article II, Section 4 of the Local 94 Bylaws, to win the election a candidate must receive a plurality of the vote. However, in the case of the positions of Trustee and Auditor, the three (3) candidates receiving the highest number of votes for those positions shall be elected.

Please read all of the above information carefully and if you have any questions, feel free to contact me @ 212-331-1836.

Fraternally,

Kuba J. Brown
KJB/jd
Woolworth’s “Cathedral of Commerce” Houses a Century of Innovation

Even during construction it was clear Frank Woolworth’s amazing neo-Gothic skyscraper would forever change the New York skyline. Designed by Cass Gilbert and built at a cost of $13.5 million, Frank Woolworth’s 792-foot “Cathedral of Commerce” was the tallest in the world when it opened for business on April 24, 1913.

To this day the elaborate lobby features a vaulted ceiling covered in gold mosaic, with murals of Commerce and Labor; more than a dozen sculpted caricatures including Woolworth counting nickels and Gilbert chucking a model of his building still dazzles those fortunate enough to get past the “TOURISTS Not Permitted Beyond This Point” sign in front of the entrance.

For all the visual splendor it is the unseen power plant that brings the building to life each day is equally impressive in its own right. Long before anyone ever heard of “sustainability” Woolworth’s building was generating all its own electricity and steam.

At the heart of the original power plant six enormous coal-fired boilers burned five tons of coal a day in winter. Carrying away the exhaust was an 800-foot tall, 10-foot round enclosed chimney. Decades later when coal was replaced by the oil a 40,000 gallon oil tank supplied the 110 gallons of oil an hour needed to keep the burners going. And the building was built with redundancies, said Building Manager Vincent Baffa. “There was a gas line running up the stairwell to light lanterns if there was an emergency.”

Chief Engineer Edward Lobue still marvels at innovation. “Anyone who visited this building in 1913 would be like visiting the World Fair,” exclaimed Lobue.

Lobue has been at the Woolworth Building for 40 years and can recall a time when the building crew consisted of nine engineers; 15 full-time carpenters and painters; three plumbers; three electricians and “even two guys who did nothing but wash the wooden window shades.”

The big boilers and window shade washers are long gone. These days Baffa, Lobue and the Local 94 crew of Danny Carolan, Anthony Marche, Carlo Degiacomi, and Nick Taranuk, keep the building running. And they are constantly upgrading and finding new efficiencies for the century old landmark.

Four chillers are at the heart of the system, aided by 60-ton package units on each floor. Recently Baffa oversaw the installation of three new gas-fired EVO water heaters. “Each unit generates two million BTU’s,” explained Baffa. “With six million BTU’s we can meet the needs of the entire building on a normal winter day.”

Should the temperature drop below 20-degrees the system will be supplemented by steam.

Another new addition to the operations was the installation of a new Fisonic EnergyMAX heat exchangers. With no moving parts and powered by its own pumping thrust, the exchangers are nearly 100% efficient. “The units use no electricity, reduce water consumption and sewer discharge,” explained Baffa.

“We are the first building in New York City operating this system,” said Baffa proudly. “This is not the first-time the engineering team at the Woolworth Building oversaw the introduction of new technology. Standing in his office Loeb pulled down a photo of the chiller floor from the 1950’s. “Johnson Controls had these units equipped with multiple sensors to constantly monitor and track temperature, water, humidity,” said Loeb.

“When I started here in 1973 the chief told me Johnson Controls would send someone over to calibrate the system once a month. The chief said the crew felt like they had the computer.”

These days everyone has a computer and according to Baffa the BMS system at Woolworth is also about to get an upgrade. “We’re going to switch to Automatic Logic’s web-based system,” said Baffa. “It is a lot easier to use than our current system and because it’s web-based once we have a password we can access the system from anywhere.”

Current tenants in the “Cathedral of Commerce” include the New York University, the US District Court, the NYPD Pension Fund, and the Rainforest Alliance. However, in keeping with the trend the top 30 floors of the building will be converted to luxury condominiums.

In a deal announced last August, Alchemy Properties paid $68 million to create 40 luxury apartments including a five-level penthouse in the cupola. Fortunately for the new tenants, Frank Woolworth’s oversized swimming pool and spa in the basement is in excellent condition.
the team has built a record of success—a record that includes Energy Star ratings each year from 2008 to their LEED Gold award in 2012.

“We’ve been blessed,” said Politi. “The guys we have care for this building as if it were their own home. We keep up with preventive maintenance and management has invested in capital improvements and providing a generous budget for repairs and maintenance, he said.

“When they first developed the protocols for LEED, management jumped right in, and said ‘okay let’s see what we can do.’ They never hesitated. They went along with all the construction and improvements,” said Politi.

And, the crew also keeps up with training and upgrading of skills and certifications. “Every one of our engineers is FSD and EAP certified,” said Incorvaia.

With nearly all the maintenance and repair work done in-house there is plenty to keep the crew busy. There are five cooling towers providing 2,000 tons of cooling with an 800-ton Carrier absorber at the heart of the system. “And we have a 500-ton York electric centrifuge we can piggyback onto on extreme summer days,” said Incorvaia.

In the past 10 years alone the team has overseen:

- An upgrade of the heating PRV system
- Installation of a main steam riser for high-rise heating
- Replaced StrainerCycle with 650 ton Plate Frame heat exchanger
- Currently completing the final installation of a new BMS

With a roster of tenants that includes AB InBev, Pernod Ricard, HSBC Bank and Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management the team prides itself on their response to tenant complaints and concerns. “We have been very effective using Short Path to monitor and track complaints and the responses,” said Politi. “Now we’re introducing a new, more effective program created by Building Engines. While clearly unafraid to introduce new technologies and techniques Politi and Incorvaia are both still “old school” at heart. Despite all the computers and monitoring equipment the Local 94 team at 250 Park Avenue still maintain a pristine and detailed log book. “We appreciate the new ways, but there is still a lot to be said for the old methods,” said Politi and he ran his hand along a page of the current log.

“You never know when you’re going to need this information,” said Politi. “We’ve got these books going all the way to 1988.”
Herbert H. Lehman High School sits high above the Hutchinson River Parkway on E. Tremont Avenue in the Bronx. So when the early warnings of what developed into Superstorm Sandy were broadcast, Firemen Roy Cedeno, Anthony Olivares and Nick Sanchez began securing the building.

Since there has never been a water issue at the building, Cedeno, Olivares and Sanchez made all the standard storm preparations. “We made sure everything was tied down and secure from the winds and damage from flying debris,” said Olivares.

“We figured we were in pretty good shape, just in case we were all here during the storm,” added Cedeno. “It was strange watching the reports on the television as they were talking about the rising water. When we looked outside, all we had were the winds blowing and hardly even any rain,” Cedeno recalled.

With night fireman Sanchez on duty along with several Local 32B workers at the ready, Cedeno went home to be with his family. “There were no signs of water and no other apparent problems. I left sometime around 2 that afternoon,”

Certainly neither Cedeno nor anyone else could have expected what happened next.

As the storm continued to rage and the tides rise one of the other workers called out Sanchez. Water was rushing into the basement pit that housed the buildings four oil-fueled boilers.

“I was like ‘oh my God, this isn’t happening,’” said Sanchez. “I ran to the phones to call 911, 311.” Sanchez recalled. “The water was surging up from the foundation. The entire pit was flooded! There was nothing else that could be done.”

“It was like the perfect storm,” noted Olivares. “The rising tide, the full moon and storm surge.”

The crew was helpless as the groundwater continued to flow into the pit rising and flowing into the boilers. It took more than three days and a dozen pumps to move water to save the pit. “The damage was done,” said Olivares. “The boilers were useless.”

As one of the 65 New York City school buildings damaged by the storm, it appeared as if Lehman, home to three schools (Westchester Academy and Renaissance High School are also in the building): 4,500 students; and a health clinic operated by Montefiore Hospital would be closed for a long while.

Fortunately the Department of Education was able to procure a pair of portable boilers allowing the schools to reopen within a week of the storm. Houses in trailers outside the building the temporary boilers have been keeping the school warm throughout the winter.

And, as of now, no one how much longer they’ll be there.

“Those boilers are temporary and we have no idea what’s going to happen with the boilers in the pit,” said Cedeno. “Even the brick work inside the boilers is damaged. The salt water is corrosive. I don’t see how they can be repaired.”

In the meantime, the portable boilers remain outside and Cedeno, Olivares, and Sanchez continue to respond to handle the day-to-day problems that pop-up in the operation of any building. “We’re here, and when something needs to be done. We make sure it gets done and done right,” said Cedeno.

### Groundwater Flooding Couldn’t Ground Lehman High Crew

From left, Lehman HS firemen Anthony Olivares, Nicolas Sanchez and Roy Cedeno stand on a walkway above pit housing the four boilers.
Scholarship Dinner-Dance Helps Raise Spirits and Dollars

With an eye to the future the 17th Annual Scholarship Dinner-Dance provided the perfect antidote for the still lingering impact of Superstorm Sandy. The January 11th event provided the perfect setting to celebrate and honor the best and brightest of our Local 94 family.

And, celebrate they did! The Russo’s On the Bay staff left no detail to chance. The spectacular 90-minute cocktail “hour” provided everyone a chance to mingle and chat while sipping cocktails and munching from a smorgasbord of appetizers.

After a warm welcome from Local 94 President Kuba Brown the honorees, surrounded by their parents and siblings were presented with their awards.

Bill and Mike Ouellette provided the music and entertainment while guests dined on their choice of any of a dozen entree choices sure to satisfy every palate and appetite. The music and laughter continued through the night creating yet another unforgettable night.

More importantly, the gala helped raise money for the Scholarship Fund. Through your support for events like this Local 94 has awarded 145 scholarships totaling more than $1.1 million.

Thank you for your support.
Leading the Fight for Union Rights and the HTC at the Ace Hotel

Mike Gadaleta
Kelly Drummond

After eight years as a U.S. Army Ranger, including tours in Iraq and Afghanistan Chris Hufford had every right to believe his fighting days were over. He was wrong.

Hufford was soon in a different kind of fight at the corner of Broadway and 29th Street — the Hotel Trades Council organizing effort inside the chic Ace Hotel.

Taking advantage of the GI Bill to earn his chiller license Hufford was hired by the hotel in the summer of 2010. With his job search over and continuing his classes Hufford and his girlfriend Melissa began talking about marriage. Things were going so well Hufford was even able to get his refrigeration school classmate and friend Kyle Manning a job at the hotel. But all was not well at the Ace; a movement among the workers to switch representation and 29th Street — the Hotel Trades Council and having just taken a seat on the Long Island Railroad, Hufford found Ace Hotel general manager Jan Rozenveld hovering over him. With a simple “Hi, Chris” Rozenveld sat down and began asking questions about where Hufford had been working overnights were ordered to work days and Manning who was preparing for anything but I didn’t let my guard down. After a while I just got up and went into the next car,” said Hufford. “I’m not into playing games.”

The incident on LIRR was in August. One month later Hufford who was wrong.

Hufford insists he’s no hero. And, because of their efforts Local 94 has added a dozen new members and workers at the Ace Hotel are covered by the historic and groundbreaking the HTC Industry Wide Agreement.

Despite the pressures and intimidation Hufford and Manning remained solidly behind the HTC. "It was tough. My fiancé would ask why I was doing what I was doing. I told her it was important. It was about a better life. It was about our future.

Ace Hotel engineer Chris Hufford played key role in election.
Vornado Chiefs, Assistants, Fill GPRO Classes, Earn M&O Certificates

Last summer when the Training Center announced we would be offering the GPRO sustainability course in September the class filled almost immediately. That response demonstrated the depth of our members’ commitment to sustainability.

Earlier this year we learned that commitment is not limited to engineers, when Vornado filled the winter classrooms with all their chief and assistant chief engineers.

According to Suki Paciorek, Vornado’s vice president of corporate sustainability all of Vornado’s senior employees including building managers and assistant building managers completed the GPRO course (although not at the Training Center) last month.

“We were looking for a training program when we found GPRO, and it seemed like a perfect fit,” Paciorek said.

And, in an ironic coincidence the five-week course held each Monday and Thursday afternoon was being taught by Vinny Curcio, who had just joined the Vornado team.

Curcio, who has been a member of Local 94 for 28 years, joined Vornado in May. As he changed jobs Curcio was a student in GPRO’s Training the Trainers program. And was the instructor when the course was first offered last September.

“I wasn’t surprised to see all the Vornado people in the class. “It was clear that Vornado has a strong commitment to education and training. GPRO is the ideal course to understand how we in the industry can affect the environment,” said Curcio.

Developed by the Urban Green Council, USGBC New York GPRO is a national training and certificate program developed to teach those who

“build, renovate, and maintain buildings the principles of sustainability and combined with trade-specific green relevant knowledge,” according to their website (www.GPRO.org).

The GPRO program is a series of courses and certificate exams teaching skilled workers how they can meet the expectations of owners and tenants who want healthier, environmentally sustainable, energy efficient offices.

The class, Fundamentals of Building Green, is a certificate program consisting of four weeks of coursework followed by the certificate exam in week five. “There is not a lot of calculating or teaching hands-on applications. There is a little bit of the science as to how we got to where we are; the effects of CO2 on the environment. These are the issues we address in this course,” explained Curcio.

“Overall it’s a pretty intense program providing a complete overview of sustainability. It’s about being smarter, making sure you’re keeping up and performing all the proper maintenance,” said Curcio. “Realistically I see this course as a gateway to the BOC (Building Operator Certification) course.”

The GPRO classes were held from 1 to 4 p.m. each Monday and Thursday. To ensure Vornado’s buildings were properly covered all their chiefs attended the Monday sessions and the assistants took the class on Thursdays.

By completing the course and passing the exam the students were awarded Operations and Maintenance Certificates from GPRO.

Curcio noted that even with the certificate in hand, the course and class work will continue to adjust to new technologies and discoveries. “The industry is continually evolving,” said Curcio. And GPRO is constantly making changes to keep up with the industry.

Members who are out of work as a result of illness or injury whether on or off the job, should:

- **Contact the Union Office.** Members out of work are eligible to pay reduced non-working dues for any month(s) when they were not employed for the entire month.

- **Contact the Health Fund Office.** Members covered under the Realty Advisory Board agreement are out of work due to an on or off the job injury or illness are eligible for their employers to continue making employer contributions on their behalf if they have been employed for a year or more. The Health Fund staff will ensure that the employer meets this obligation.

- **Contact your business agent.** Members should always notify their agent of any on or off the job injury or illness.

Members who are out of work due to an on the job injury or off the job injury or illness can make one call to 212-331-1800 and be put in touch with all the necessary departments.

You are reminded that if you are out of work you are responsible for your non-working dues. If a member anticipates their illness or injury will be for a year or more, the member should consider taking a withdrawal card. All dues owed must be current. The member should write a letter to their business agent and include the fee of $5. This in no way negatively impacts the members’ status with the Union, the International, or the employer. Once a withdrawn member recovers and returns to employment with a participating employer, the member can reactivate their membership.

Returning to Work

No Restrictions after 70 1/2

After you have retired and except for the first *month of your retirement (‘you cannot apply sick or vacation time as your one month requirement) there are no restrictions on jobs or hours worked by you once you reach age 70 1/2.*

You can return to work in a job classification which is covered by the IUOE or in the job classification for which the Central Pension Fund receives contributions and continue to receive your monthly benefit.
In order to have coverage for prescription drugs in certain drug classes, you must try a generic drug first to treat your condition. The amount you pay for your prescription will be lower when you choose a generic drug. However, if you choose to use a brand-name drug without trying a generic first or without getting prior approval, coverage may be denied and you may have to pay the full cost of the brand-name drug.

Listed below are frequently asked questions:

**Brand Medications Requiring Use of a Generi**

**Q:** Why does my plan sponsor or CVS Caremark want me to use a generic first?

**A:** Generic drugs are a safe, effective, low-cost option for treating many common conditions. Because generic drugs cost 80 to 90 percent less than brand-name drugs, they can help you and your plan sponsor save money.


**Q:** What if I already tried a generic?

**A:** If your records show that you have tried a generic drug to treat your condition within the last 180 or 365 days, the amount of days is dependent on the class of the drug, and your brand-name drug may be covered.

If more than 180 or 365 days have passed since you tried a generic drug to treat your condition, your plan requires you to try a generic again. It is possible that new generics may now be available to treat your condition.

**Q:** What if I can’t take the generic?

**A:** If you cannot take a certain generic drug due to a medical reason, your doctor may consider prescribing a different generic drug to treat your condition. If no other generic alternative is available, your doctor may contact CVS Caremark to obtain prior approval so you may receive coverage for your drug.

**Q:** My doctor doesn’t want me to change to another drug. What should I do?

**A:** If you are taking a brand-name drug and have not tried a generic drug within the last 180 or 365 days, the amount of days is dependent on the class of the drug, and your doctor has not received prior approval for the brand-name drug, then your drug may not be covered under your plan.

**Q:** What happens if I utilize the CVS mail away program with the Traditional Step Therapy Program implemented 7/1/12?

**A:** At CVS Caremark Mail Service Pharmacy, the process is initiated with the generation of a mail claim reject, which results in a fax communication to the prescribing physician. The fax will inform the prescriber that a generic is required. The fax will also list the generic alternatives. The prior authorization toll-free number will be included for the prescribing physician to use if they feel the generic will not benefit the participant.

**Q:** What happens if the doctor does not respond to the fax that was sent to my Doctor for my prescription through the mail away program?

**A:** If the doctor does not respond to the fax that was sent, the participant will receive an automated call on the 6th day, informing him/her that the RX order has been delayed and the prescriber is being contacted. After 8 days, the order will be placed on hold and a letter will be sent reminding the participant of the step therapy requirement. The letter will inform the participant that CVS has contacted the doctor for approval of the generic alternative.

CVS recommends that the participant discuss this with the doctor and inform the Doctor they must respond to CVS’s request.

**Q:** How is the participant notified if the RX is changed through the mail away program?

**A:** If the participant has an Rx that is changed at mail (changed from the targeted brand drug to the generic), the participant will be notified of the Doctor's approval to switch the medicine.

**Q:** How is the participant notified if the RX is denied by the Prior Authorization department for my mail away prescription?

**A:** If the Rx is denied by the Prior Authorization department the participant will receive a notification letter “RX not filled letter” and the letter will provide the participant's options to work with the drug to prescribe a generic or alternative medication to treat the participant’s condition.

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**Tradition Generic Step Therapy Program**

CVS can check your drug history for you to see when you tried the generic last.

**Q:** What happens if I choose to use a brand-name drug?

**A:** According to your plan, if you choose to use a brand-name drug without trying a generic first, coverage may be denied and you may have to pay the full cost of the brand-name drug.

If you try (or have tried) a generic drug first (within the last 180 or 365 days, the amount of days is dependent on the class of the drug) to treat your condition, you may receive coverage for the brand-name drug.

**Q:** If I got my prescription filled, I had to pay the full cost of the medicine. Can you tell me why?

**A:** According to your plan, if you use a brand-name drug without trying a generic first or without your doctor getting prior approval for brand-name drugs, your plan may provide coverage for it.

**Q:** Will my drug be covered if I do not receive prior approval?

**A:** If you are taking a brand-name drug, and have not tried a generic drug within the last 180 or 365 days, the amount of days is dependent on the class of the drug, and your doctor has not received prior approval for the brand-name drug, then your drug may not be covered under your plan.

**Q:** What happens if I choose to use a brand-name drug with the prior approval?

**A:** Your prescription benefit plan requires that specific criteria be met in order for brand-name drugs to be covered. If your doctor obtains prior approval for your brand-name drug, your plan may provide coverage for it.

**Q:** Why isn’t my prescription covered?

**A:** Ask your doctor to call us to obtain prior approval from CVS Caremark for you to use a non-preferred brand drug and receive coverage by your plan. Your doctor can call the physician line provided in communications we’ve sent to him/her.

**Q:** If my doctor gets prior approval, will my brand-name drug be covered?

**A:** Your prescription benefit plan requires that specific criteria be met in order for brand-name drugs to be covered. If your doctor obtains prior approval for your brand-name drug, your plan may provide coverage for it.

**Q:** Why isn’t my prescription medicine covered anymore? It was prior to now.

**A:** According to your prescription benefit plan, brand-name drugs in certain drug classes will not be covered unless you have tried a generic drug first. In order to have coverage for medications in these drug classes, your plan requires that you choose a lower-cost generic drug first.

**Q:** What if my doctor doesn’t want me to change to another drug? What should I do?

**A:** If you are taking a brand-name drug to treat your condition, ask your doctor to contact CVS Caremark to obtain prior approval so you may receive coverage for your drug. Without prior approval, coverage of the brand-name drug may be denied and you may have to pay the full cost of the drug.

**Q:** If I received a letter that says my drug won’t be covered unless I receive prior approval. Can you please tell me what I need to do to get prior approval?

**A:** Ask your doctor to call us to obtain prior approval from CVS Caremark for you to use a non-preferred brand drug and receive coverage by your plan. Your doctor can call the physician line provided in communications we’ve sent to him/her.
I.U.O.E.
LOCAL 94, 94A, 94B

BLOOD DRIVE

Please make every attempt to donate. The life you save can be yours or a loved one. If you donate blood elsewhere give them our group number 12596/12596.

April 10, 2013
9 am – 3 pm
At the Local 94 Training Center

For a complete schedule of Local 94 meetings and events click here: http://www.local94.com/local-94/upcoming-events