



THE CUTTING EDGE

WINTER/SPRING 2025 | Vol. 32, No. 1

NEWSLETTER



Mirror Image Towers In Long Island City *Page 7*

..... INSIDE

Business Manager's Report
Page 2

**The Green Future
For Sofitel New York**
Page 11

**Local 94 Training Center
Welcoming Smart Technology**
Page 14



Executive Board

Kuba J. Brown
Business Manager & Financial Secretary

Thomas M. Hart
President

Michael Gadaleta
Vice President

Raymond Macco
Assistant Business Manager &
Recording-Corresponding Secretary

Kelly Ann Drummond
Treasurer

Bill Caramico
Conductor

Rocco Ferrigno
Guard

John Cancel, Vincent Curcio, Brian Fabian
Trustees

Anthony Fasulo, David Rodriguez, Michael Fallon
Auditors

Business Representatives

Kuba J. Brown
Business Manager/Financial Secretary
Raymond Macco
Assistant Business Manager/
Recording Corresponding Secretary/
Business Representative

Thomas M. Hart
President/Business Representative for
the New York City Public Schools located
in the Bronx, Manhattan & Staten Island/
Health & Safety Officer

Michael Gadaleta
Vice President/Business Representative
of Uptown Manhattan, Queens and the
Bronx

Kelly Drummond
Treasurer/Business Representative
of Hotels, Clubs, and Commercial
Residential properties of New York City

Rocco Ferrigno
Guard/Business Representative
Downtown Manhattan

Bill Caramico
Conductor/Business Representative for
New York City Schools Brooklyn and
Queens

John Cancel
Trustee/Business Representative
Midtown Manhattan/Hotels

Vincent Curcio
Trustee/Business Representative
Eastside/Westside Manhattan,
Queens, the Bronx and Brooklyn



Business Manager's Report

Local 94 Thrives as We Head into Election Season

Brothers and Sisters,

We hope we find you in good health and spirits as we move past the first quarter of 2025.

As we've entered the new year, there have been many changes, such as the introduction of a new presidential administration. We have been keeping a close eye on the administration and have updates to report that may be of interest to you and your family, and what you can do to protect your labor rights.

Administration Plans to Strip Federal Labor Rights

As we feared, this administration has moved forward with their anti-labor policies. They have pushed the executive order known as "Exclusions from Federal Labor-Management Relations Programs," which seeks to end collective bargaining rights for many federal organizations, such as the Department of State, Justice, Health, and Human Services to name a few. If this goes into effect, the over a million employed at these departments will no longer be covered by their union contracts.

At the time of this writing, the administration has already revoked the collective bargaining rights of the Transportation Security Administration, effectively removing the protections of thousands of airport security officers.

While this does not currently affect our members, we would like you to ask yourselves

"where does this go next?" This administration has already proven they are going to hone in on attacking labor rights, with employer favoritism that will put money in their pockets as they take them from labor's paychecks. Organizing will only become more difficult so long as this administration gets its way, and fewer jobs will remain on American soil.

We ask you to consider what is happening on a federal level as if it were happening to you right now in New York.

The Continued Fight for Codes and Regulations

We are continuing our commitment against the constant barrage of contractors trying to weaken the building code and regulations.

If they had it their way, contractors would be cutting into your paychecks. There is nothing that can be done about the price of materials, the only place to cut costs on any project is labor. Weakening building codes does not make materials cheaper, they make labor cheaper by putting labor on the sidelines. And when you put labor on the sidelines, you jeopardize job security, prevailing wage and the safety of both the worker and the public. That is why me and the other Business Agents at Local 94 are here, to ensure that does not happen. We have worked to ensure Local 94 has a place at the table when safety standards and building codes are discussed.

On the topic of safety, FDNY is currently looking into the usage of the A2L refrigerant

models. If they happen to approve of these models, the decision on their usage will go to the City Council. We bring this up to you because the A2L refrigerant poses a great threat not only to your job security, but also to your well-being. These refrigerants are designed to be operated from afar, making most engineering work obsolete. On top of that, they are dangerous in the wrong hands and under the right conditions powered by electrical components could be potential ignition sources.

The men and women of Local 94 are given optimal training to handle their equipment safely. Part of their training is to educate members on new safety requirements and risk mitigation measures pertaining to applications in all types of buildings. The Training Center will be at the fore front of A2L handling and safety Certifications once implemented by FDNY. We will prioritize operating buildings using the best practices and the most current safety protocols. This is why we strongly support personal supervision over general, requiring a trained engineer with the A2L refrigerant experience always be present, thereby keeping City buildings maintained, efficient, and safe.

Endorsements for the 2025 Primary

One way you can help protect your rights is by voting for the candidates with a proven track record. This will be important going into the upcoming primary on June 24th. When voting, remember the candidates who are interested in letting us have a seat at the table, especially as we enter our code committee hearings.

Brooklyn's district attorney Eric Gonzalez has proven his unwavering commitment to the working person and their family. The borough presidents Donovan Richards, Antonio Reynoso, and Vanessa L Gibson have also shown support for union power in office, working to create innovative ways for the unemployed to find sustainable careers.

Incumbent councilmembers Erik Bottcher, Gale Brewer, Shaun Abreu, Sandra Ung, Linda Lee, Shekar Krishnan, Lynn Schulman, and Eric Gonzalez have all shown that they are interested in protecting labor benefits as they enter City Hall. We are looking forward to having discussions with other the councilmembers to ensure they will be supportive of labor.

Finally, as governor, Andrew Cuomo never forgot about labor unions, especially Local 94. His leadership brought upon some of the best labor opportunities across New York, such as raising the minimum wage and endorsing increased retirement benefits. We have no doubt he will continue and strongly endorse his candidacy for mayor.

Under the current presidential administration, Local 94 faces some potentially challenging times, and our rights are always under threat locally if we are not vigilant. We will continue to monitor the events in Washington, D.C. and do everything we can to insulate our members from actions detrimental to labor, and we will continue to ensure Local 94 has a place at the table with decision-makers in New York City.

In Solidarity,



Kuba Brown

Citywide Primary Election

Elections Calendar | NYC Votes

Early Voting | Primary Election

Sat, June 14, 2025 - Sun, June 22, 2025

Vote early in person before Primary Election Day!

[Find your early voting site and hours.](#)

Voter Registration Deadline

Primary Election | Sat, June 14, 2025

Last day voter registration application must be received by the Board of Elections by mail or in person.

[Find your borough Board of Elections office.](#)

Primary Election Day

Tue, June 24, 2025

Polls are open 6am-9pm.

[Find your poll site.](#)

Citywide General Election

Early Voting | General Election

Sat, Oct. 25, 2025 - Sun, Nov. 2, 2025

Vote early in person before Election Day!

[Find your early voting site and hours.](#)

Election Day

Tue, November 4, 2025

Polls are open 6am-9pm.

[Find your poll site.](#)



Ray Macco

Training is the Key to Every Member's Success

The Local 94 Training center is the cornerstone of the success Local 94 has had over these many years. Let us not forget the ability for journeymen to take opportunities to attend the many continuing education classes offered by our training center, to hone members' skills.

Raising our skill level whenever possible will solidify our positions in our industry for the future. Knowledge is power and can never be taken away. Please take every opportunity to take every continuing education class offered in our training center.

We continue to upgrade our training center with new innovative classes such as our upcoming cybersecurity classes and our hands on A2L class. We are restructuring all our classes to include ½ lecture, and ½ hands on training, so members get the most out of the training center. We would ask our Chiefs to continue to review their helpers' curriculum

at the beginning of each semester so they can assign them duties to strengthen their knowledge of the industry by applying what they learn in class.

Classes offered over the years consist of Water Treatment, Indoor Air Quality, Energy Conservation, Critical Systems, Mechanical drafting, High Efficiency Boilers, Advance Direct Digital Controls, Green buildings, Fire Life Safety Director, Package Unit handling, OSHA General Industry, BOMI SMA & SMT, as well as the Chief Engineers class.

All these classes will position members for the future. It will help members build resumes so they can elevate to their next Local 94 position. If there are other topics not listed above that can add value to our training center, please reach out so we can continue to maintain the best work force in NYC.

Please contact the training center to request any of these classes. Don't miss out on the

opportunity available to protect your future. Training is the key to every member's success.

As we enter 2025, we ask you all to start preparing for January 1, 2027. Please prepare financially as well as starting to track your buildings' energy savings. Track your consumption savings for steam, gas, water and electricity as well as preparing documentation for all project savings you have conducted with your crew in your buildings, in lieu of a contractor, over the last few years which saved the employer money.

Fraternally,

Ray Macco,
Assistant Business Manager



“Raising our skill level whenever possible will solidify our positions in our industry for the future.”



Mike Gadaleta

Maintaining High Standards for the High End of New York City



Columbus Circle

At 5-floors, nearly one million square feet, and next door to Central Park, The Shops at Columbus Circle have become an epicenter for shopping and dining in New York City. Established by Elkus Manfredi Architects in 2004, its glorious modern appearance has lured locals and tourists alike with a taste of the higher end of city life.

It boasts a multitude of designer stores such as HUGO Boss as well as fine dining like the award-winning Porter House Bar and Grill. It also features art pieces throughout the mall, such as sculptor Fernando Bottero's Adam and Eve sculptures, which welcomes guests as they enter.

The Shops at Columbus Circle is also the site of the Deutsche Bank Center, which includes the Mandarin Oriental Hotel and Jazz at Lincoln Center. Together, the multi-faceted property is one of the more impressive hubs in Manhattan for commerce and activity.

Running such a structure requires a combined engineering effort of multiple teams. At the base of it all is Chief Engineer Andy Burgaleta, Assistant Chief Engineers Ray Ziccardi, Oscar Espinosa, Gene Milman, 5 helpers, 3 mechanics, and 10 engineers of Local 94 that come together to meet whatever challenge comes their way.

"We have to remember this building has some age to it now," said Burgaleta, "And since

it's opening, there have been new energy-efficiency mandates that we must meet. Things have changed over the years, so we're updating the building accordingly." On top of planning and executing lighting upgrades throughout the complex, Burgaleta and Ziccardi also oversaw modernizing the HVAC system which not only meets the energy-saving standards of the City but exceeds them, making The Shops at Columbus Circle one of the greenest projects of its kind.

Another test of their skill came when Burgaleta and Ziccardi were given responsibility for maintaining the retail space three years ago, while also having to introduce 4 new members to their engineering team. "The main thing is making sure we are all on the same page," said Burgaleta, "We're all in this together, so we must work within each other's abilities and limitations. As long as the issues stay in the house, we can run things smoothly."

The crew discovered ways to keep costs down by maintaining the highest standards



Left to right: Andy Burgaleta, Lou Roman, Dave Toomer, Gene Rossov, Matt Lombino, Joe Emma, Ray Ziccardi, Brendan Abrams, Marty Roche, and. Benny Kuka

Not pictured: Oscar Espinosa, Gene Milman, Anthony Pizzulli, Lonnie Long, Frank Lamb, Lonnie Long, Matt Hekl, Jon Grillo, Mike Desomma, Kris Lopez, David Ortiz, and John Hammel

(Photo by Alexander Brown)

of energy efficiency, preserving The Shops' long and well-known reputation as a well-run building.

"We had to modernize the domestic water pumping systems, as well as the controls," reminisced Ziccardi, "We have modernized the chill water and condenser pumps. We looked at our options to make sure it was cost efficient while also keeping the building running at the pace it needs to run it."

In their control center, they have implemented a new Building Management System (BMS) that runs all operations with efficiency and ease. "The system quickly notifies us when there is an issue, and we also have a simulation figure of who is fixing it and how," said Ziccardi, "This allows us to handle issues as a team and see what our members can handle."

You need people who can maintain the infrastructure of buildings such as The Shops at Columbus Circle with confidence to handle every obstacle that comes its way, from maintaining the equipment provided, to modernizing what is necessary. This is what the members of Local 94 are trained to handle. Because of their commitment, teamwork, and forward thinking, no serious issues have arisen.

"When nobody notices, we know we're doing a good job," said Burgaleta.



Photo by Ray Ziccardi



Rocco Ferrigno

Upkeeping 28 Liberty's Large Legacy



28 Liberty Street

When it comes to the upkeep and maintenance of New York City's world-famous buildings and skyscrapers, the men and women of Local 94 are truly the unsung heroes. A perfect example of this is the colossal 28 Liberty Street, once known as One Chase Manhattan Plaza.

First constructed in 1961 and owned by Chase Manhattan Bank, the building has since been sold and converted into a commercial and retail space dedicated to the arts and commerce. The building's eclectic tenants include the Alamo Drafthouse Cinema, shopping mall Marketplace 28, and the office of the New York State Attorney General.

In tribute to the arts, the Fosun Plaza of 28 Liberty features sculptures surrounding one of the great architect Isamu Noguchi's masterpieces, "The Sunken Garden," which is a sight to behold during the warmer seasons. Also displayed at the Plaza is Jean Dubuffet's "Group of Four Trees." 28 Liberty also hosts outdoor exhibits and recently installed Australian artists' Gillie and Marc Schattner's "The Wild Couch Party and Friends."

Supporting a building such as this while maintaining the integrity of its 60-year history is no small feat. Chief Engineer Robert Sisko, Assistant Chief Engineer Mathew Foder, and the eighteen members of the 28 Liberty crew work tirelessly each day and each night to keep the original equipment running effectively and efficiently, while making the necessary upgrades to keep it in pristine condition.

Since becoming chief engineer in 2019, Sisko has kept an eagle's eye on the building and its needed work and upgrades. During the day, he and his team make sure construction and operation meetings run smoothly, and after hours, handle the preventative maintenance and repairs. However, nothing distracts the crew from their top priority – the tenants. "We make sure everything runs smoothly for them first and foremost," Sisko declared, showing off the stacking plan in his office.

Maintaining the building's equipment is only one part of the task. Sisko's crew is also modernizing the building. They are working on a Mech Damper Replacement Project, which will replace the old pneumatic system with a Direct Digital Control (DDC) unit. "This will allow precise and consistent control while optimizing efficiency," Sisko said.

They are also working on replacing the tubes in the 3400-Ton Steam Turbine, which was converted to electric drive in 2016, and are in the process of installing a free-cooler PFHX after the demolition of a

500-Ton Chiller. To adhere to Local Law 97, Sisko's team are also replacing 27 fans system dampers and converting to DDC Control.

Upgrading equipment also means upgrading skills. The team here has consistent online training, and whenever possible, they have hands-on training as well. "We are going to be training soon on Bluebox coil treatment, which uses enzymes to restore and clean the coils," explained Sisko. "Any time something is added to the system's infrastructure, we make sure we know how to use it."

Any building as large as 28 Liberty would require much work, but at 60 years old, this one requires more attention. There is not a moment when Sisko's phone is not ringing, but the work gets done and the building has had few setbacks. Maintaining 28 Liberty extends beyond just the equipment that runs the building for Sisko and his crew.

"We are currently painting the floors of our engineering rooms," he said, "It's all about keeping an old building efficient and reliable for everyone involved."



Left to right: Anthony Pepe, Victor Delello, Matthew Foder, Louis Reggiori, Armando Correa, Robert Sisko, and Jay Ram. Not pictured: Lou Reggiori, Mike Riccardelli, Steve Geary, Andrew Perez, Eric Wehner, James Wines, Watson Li, Bill Palumbo, Matthew Sirju, Aiden McGlinchey, and Joseph Galente.

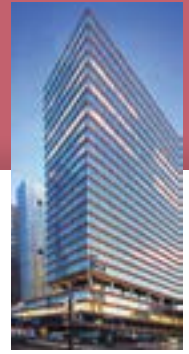
(Photo by Jason Weber)



Vincent Curcio

Mirror Image Towers In Long Island City

The
JACX



The glass enclosed tower with intermingled panels of terra cotta makes the high-rise office building at 28-07 Jackson Avenue in Long Island City more than a little eye-catching, and that is before you realize it has an identical twin right next door at 28-30 Jackson Avenue. Or as they are referred to by their Chief Engineer, Brian O'Donnell, "mirror image towers."

Named the JACX, the 26-story, 1.2 million-square foot double-tower is a Tishman Speyer property that was recently completed in 2019, and was designed by the NYC-based, award-winning architectural firm, MdeAS Architects.

The building's most unique feature is the fact that the towers are connected by a one-acre, fully and lushly landscaped terrace designed by landscape architect, HM White, and is used by tenants to socialize, dine and unwind. The JACX also has a landscaped rooftop terrace, and its property is fully landscaped along Queens Plaza.

The building's glass and terra cotta features, which are merged with many concrete components, is meant to convey both a creative and modern work environment with a clear nod to Long Island City's industrial roots.

The JACX is fully occupied, with such tenants as Macy's, Bloomingdales, the New York Black Car Fund, and Studio by Tishman Speyer to name a few.

The building's ground level features 50,000 square-feet of retail and dining space, which includes a fitness center, a dining hall that is open to the public, and a supermarket. There is also parking for 550 cars and 175 bikes in the garage below, which also includes parking spots and docks for Revel, the electric rideshare platform.

With its sweeping views, the JACX sits atop the major transit hub of Queens Plaza, affording access to 7 different subway lines, the LIRR, and located only minutes from both LaGuardia and JFK airports.

Taken together, the JACX represents the new, high caliber standard for office development and reveals LIC as a NYC office hub and magnet for creative workforces.

When Brian O'Donnell, the Chief Engineer at the JACX for the last two and half years, speaks about the building's BMS or storm water reclamation and filtration system, he is careful to mention that there is a mirror image system at the tower across the way. Though there are two towers, there is just the one 9-member engineering team working in two shifts at the JACX – O'Donnell, his Assistant Chief, four engineers and three helpers.



Left to right, Salvatore Imparato, Daquan Johnson, Justin Passelli, Brian O'Donnell, Carlos Acevedo, Eric Hohmann, Peter Inga, and Carmen Castellano. - Antonio Gaita (not pictured)

However, when asked about the biggest challenge working at the JACX, O'Donnell does not point to maintaining the double-towers. One of the building's tenants maintained their own building management system and maintenance on their floors, separate from the JACX's system and engineering team, but then left the building and left a system that was not well-maintained to the next tenant.

"My team inherited 10 floors which were not maintained up to Local 94 standards,"

said O'Donnell. "We are currently working to get these 10 floors and BMS up to where it needs to be, and our project for next year will be to incorporate this BMS into the building's overall system."

Among the other challenges, O'Donnell and his team are responsible for supporting the JACX's food hall, Studio, the amenities pavilion, the parking garage, and Revel's docking stations, which the company would like to expand.

There is also a 1,500 kVA emergency diesel caterpillar generator for life safety. Adding to the crew's challenge are the JACX's 29 elevators.

"We also must maintain 19 ATS switches for life safety loads," says O'Donnell. "We test these switches monthly by manually transferring the load from normal to emergency power to ensure their reliability in the event of a power outage."

The JACX has a 100,000 gallon storm water retention tank under the parking garage, and 5 high efficiency gas-fired, hot-water boilers, along with (58) JCI Direct Expansion AC Units containing two-stages of air filtration. Each tower has its own cooling tower consisting of 3 cells each with a primary and secondary condenser water loop.

O'Donnell's crew performs most of the maintenance in the machine rooms, like filter changes, painting, maintaining the hot water heaters on each floor, and each member of his team is certified to perform inspections on the building's many fire extinguishers – which they do. "My guys are fully certified and obviously, that is a pretty big undertaking," said O'Donnell.

Most of what O'Donnell and his Local 94 team do is a pretty big undertaking, because even if the JACX's double-towers are mirror images with the exact same systems, there are still two of them.



John Cancel

A Cross-Trained Crew Makes for a Good Team at 498 7th Avenue

The primary lobby at 498 Seventh Avenue has the feel of a long, cavernous hallway that is scarcely appointed but striking with blue lighting on its walls and a large, electric blue “498” behind the security desk. But once at the security desk, the lobby resembles a boutique hotel’s lobby with a trendy coffee stand and sitting area.

Jeremiah McGinley, the Chief Engineer at 498 7th Avenue for the last 2 ½ years and a 12-year member of Local 94, will tell you the lobby is very popular with tenants and visitors alike. It is one of the many things to admire about the 25-story, 960,000-square foot office and retail property located just a couple blocks north of Penn Station.

The building’s expansive office spaces, featuring impressive ceiling heights, host a range of high-profile tenants, including the primary tenant, 1199 SEIU, the largest health-care union in the nation, which occupies over 600,000 square feet. Cosentini Associates, a leading consulting engineering firm, is also coincidentally a tenant.

“It is important for us to maintain a strong rapport with all our tenants,” said McGinley. “This fosters increased patience and a cohesive working relationship, especially when maintenance or repairs are needed in their spaces.” McGinley also highlighted the advantage of having Cosentini Associates in the building, stating, “We regularly rely on them as a valuable resource for guidance on our planned projects and the numerous initiatives we have successfully completed.”

The building is cooled by over 60 package units, typically each floor consists of at least 2 DX units that are water cooled by two cooling towers; during the winter it is heated with low pressure steam boilers all of which, along with the HVAC system, are maintained in house.

Throughout all the newly built spaces there are VAV boxes which are aimed at conserving energy. Speaking of energy savings, the



498 7th Avenue

498 crew has conducted various projects to achieve their LL97 deadline and is currently in compliance until 2035. The most recent project that they took on was an installation of two new high efficiency motors as well as two variable frequency drives on the condenser water system. The team just finished the commissioning of a load bank and 7 new ASCO ATS’s for the life safety system, for which they worked alongside the design engineers, electricians, elevator mechanics and generator technicians.

The team is consistently working to improve the efficiency of the building. One of the ways that they are doing this is actively working with their BMS vendor to keep adding additional points to their system. These points provide information, which allow them to have a deeper understanding of the system and make it easier to pinpoint inefficiencies.

The team at 498 7th Avenue is lean – 7 men working three shifts – McGinley, an Assistant Chief, two engineers, a mechanic and two helpers. And with the building newly renovated and with all new equipment and most of the crew new to the building McGinley and his crew were forced to learn on the fly.

Though McGinley’s team might be small, it is both proficient and experienced and was put together intentionally for the skills each member brings to the table. Indeed, McGinley was brought on as Chief Engineer because he was an engineer at 498 7th Avenue previously and he was brought back when the former Chief was retiring.

“The crew of predominantly new team members have demonstrated exceptional adaptability, seamlessly integrating both existing and newly installed building equipment and systems, while fostering strong

Continued From Previous Page

engagement with tenants and building staff,” said Building Manager Sean Connaughton a long time Local 94 member.

“We do almost everything in house,” said McGinley. “All the painting, electrical work, wiring and installation radiators and associated piping.”

In addressing his crew’s skill McGinley said, “Frank has previously worked as an electrician as well as a fireman with the schools, Pat is a former carpenter, Matt has a vast degree of administrative knowledge. The newest members on the team, Dylan and James are active and eager to learn. Jovan can build anything; he is our in house MacGyver. When he gets bored, we have him fabricate something.” Among Jovan’s multiple creations was an old metal door that he transformed into their BMS desk, with the building’s address emblazoned on the top.

Although the 498 crew undergoes standard training twice a year, McGinley highlights that his team is also cross-trained. Each member is encouraged to learn new skills, broadening their expertise. To further support their development, McGinley periodically shares emails containing videos and photos of various building systems, fostering team discussions and collaborative problem-solving. It is this cross-training philosophy that makes the small crew that runs 498 7th Avenue so effective.

One of the very few bumps occurred on Black Friday, November 24, 2023, a water main break occurred at the corner of 37th Street and 7th Avenue. Water began flooding the basement of 498 7th Avenue through an electrical feed, pouring onto the main riser panel. The FDNY determined that the building needed to be shut down for safety reasons.

Assistant Chief Frank Cotignola, Engineer Patrick Campbell, and Helper Dylan Schmid

were on duty and were instructed to secure the building. The team immediately took action to protect electrical panels from the water, securing any affected electrical areas. The team made announcements over the Class “E” system as well as walked all floors of the building to notify tenants about the FDNY’s decision to shut down the building.

All elevators were lowered to the street level and powered off in case of any electrical outages. Our crew remained on-site to assist the FDNY, DEP and Con Edison until the building was fully secured and normal operations commenced the following day, if it wasn’t for their quick response the building downtime may have been much longer.

McGinley’s team might be small, but it is cross-trained and eager to learn new skills, which is why they are so good at what they do and why 498 7th Avenue is so successfully run and maintained.



From left to right we have Jovan Maio, Engineer; Frank Cotignola, Assistant Chief Engineer; Jeremiah McGinley, Chief Engineer; Dylan Schmid, Helper; Matt Woods, Mechanic; James Varian, Helper; Pat Campbell, Engineer; Property Manager Sean Connaughton, not pictured, but is a Local 94 member and has been in the building at 498 7th for 25 years.



Bill Caramico and Tom Hart

Easing in the Future Workforce

On Friday, November 15th, 2024, Local 94 were invited by the New York City Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO (NYC CLC) to participate in their event Future in Focus: Exploring the World of Union Careers. This is an event they have partnered up with the United Federation of Teachers (UFT) for the last 9 years, and the New York City Building and Construction Trades Council (NYC BCTC) for the last year.

Future in Focus, first and foremost, shows students that their road map is not limited to going to college. While job fairs are commonplace, union participation at them is limited. And when it comes to knowledge and experience with unions, it is mostly confined to high schoolers that are part of union families. NYCCLC and UFT came together and started hosting Future in Focus at UFT's headquarters in Lower Manhattan twice a year to show students that college is not the only path to success.

The event was moved to a larger space at Lehman College as interest has grown. Today the job fair features the participation of 40 different unions and over 1,300 students.

Running from 10:00 in the morning until 1:00 in the afternoon, students have ample time to visit each union table, speak to representatives, gather information and load up on some swag. The job fair has proven to be so popular that the Community Outreach Director of NYC CLC Xiomara Loarte believes it may generate interest citywide.

Since it was Local 94's first time at the event, I brought tools, valves, and training manuals for a hands-on experience for those who swung by the table. During my time there, I came across students who were already interested in engineering work, as well as students strolling along each table to see if anything struck a chord with them specifically. I found no matter what their interest, students offered unique perspectives on unions and the workforce.

The day offered an opportunity to tell students what it was like to be a Local 94 engineer and what to expect from working at a union shop compared to a non-union one. One thing I made sure to tell students was that it was important to want to do this, and to understand why they want to do it. If nothing else, at least come away each day learning something new.

Every Local 94 member can attest how important education is, especially the kind you get outside of a school setting. Every day comes with an opportunity to grow, especially as an engineer figuring out solutions to fix issues in your building. It is important to instill that philosophy in the young. Talking with students and connecting with other unions certainly provided me with fresh ideas on how to introduce Local 94 to the uninitiated.

I met with a few high school advisors, who told me about students that they believe would be interested in engineering

work. There were also technical high schools with Heat, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) and plumbing programs that I connected with, which could be excellent gateways for students to start working towards the five certificates they need, as well as the boiler class we request all members to attend.

The students of today are the workforce of tomorrow. Future in Focus is an event that reminds them that the future after high school does not have to be this big unknown thing to be afraid of, and that it is okay to ask for something in return for a career you will be dedicating the better part of your life toward. Local 94 must also stay current with the thinking of young people as they begin to explore career options.

Future in Focus is a great opportunity to demonstrate the best in union power. I am looking forward to the next edition of the fair.



Tom Hart (Photo by Sean Mackell).



Kelly Drummond

The Green Future for Sofitel New York

Sofitel
New York



For 25 years, Sofitel New York has been a luxury hotel for travelers across the globe visiting our great city. Only a couple of blocks away from Bryant Park and Times Square, visitors can live the high life with peace and serenity afforded at the Sofitel after a day of adventure in New York City. It is easy to see why it is such a destination landmark.

Sofitel New York can accommodate everything from a causal visit to a business meeting with their outdoor terraces boasting clear views of the Empire State and Chrysler buildings, as well as the Paris Ballroom, which can accommodate up to 190 guests for any occasion. There is also an onsite restaurant, Gaby Brasserie, offering guests a taste of France, and inspired by the Art Deco scenery of New York.

Sofitel New York has remained relatively unchanged since it first opened its doors, and now that it is beginning to show its age, it has fallen to the Local 94 crew to restore the hotel to its former glory. The 5 watch engineers, 3 mechanics, and 2 painters are more than up to the task.

William Alexander, who on top of being a mechanic and watcher who trained under Local 94, is a skilled carpenter. “The only thing that’s been changed since I’ve been here is the carpets,” said Alexander. “The first thing we did was switch out the light bulbs to LED lights for energy efficiency.”

That measure led Sofitel New York to be one of the first hotels to be given the Green Key Eco-Rating, certifying a hotel’s commitment to improving the environment. And it literally lit the way for other hotels to follow suit. Rooms are also being equipped with more USB outlets and bathroom sink sensors.

This is only the beginning of the changes for the hotel. The rooms will be completely revamped to reflect a more modern experience. “This should be a treat for our recurring guests.” Said Ferrer, “We want to give them the most comfortable experience here.”

While these soft renovations are going on, the crew is maintaining the behind-the-scenes of Sofitel New York. Annually they check on the chiller plant to make sure it will be up and running for the warmer seasons. “It’s easy to do while its cold and it’s not being used as much.” William explained, “We can just plug in the new bulbs where they are needed.” They also check their air handlers frequently and replace bad motors as needed.

While it’s cold outside, they are also making sure the boiler rooms are functioning as they are supposed to, and that each room of the hotel, from guest rooms to the back-room cafeterias, is properly heated throughout the winter. There are general daily maintenance checks each day, as well. Recently, they installed a second air compressor on their premises, which can contain an additional 360 cfm (cubic feet per minute) alongside their initial one.

Alexander and the crew’s number one priority are the guests and workers at the hotel. “We all want to make sure the people here are happy,” said Alexander “Whether they’re staying in a room, attending an event, or working here. Each of us has our abilities to make sure that their comfortable and enjoying their time in this beautiful hotel.” He credits his longevity with Local 94, dating back to 1997, as well as his history with hotels, for successfully leading his team to keep Sofitel New York in peak shape.

Revamping the high standards of Sofitel New York is no small task, but with a green future in mind, the members of Local 94 are keeping it strong.



Left to right: Michael Liu, Curtis Ardrey, Luis Ferrer, Carlos T Martinez, Tony Hampton, William Alexander, and Sean Persaud

Not pictured: Sean Yakeen, Nassim Ahlouche, Eduard Perhati, Orean Payne, and Medina Gekic

Photo by Alexander Brown

Local 94 Dinner Dance







David Hawkins and Brian Fabian

Local 94 Training Center Welcoming Smart Technology

As technology advances and buildings become more advanced with “Smart Technology” our members need to evolve with them in terms of knowledge and skills. One of the best ways to enhance knowledge and skills is through training.

Providing members with relevant and consistent training can help improve performance and efficiency in the workplace. The Training Center has invested in the latest Smartboards to bring that technology to the classrooms.



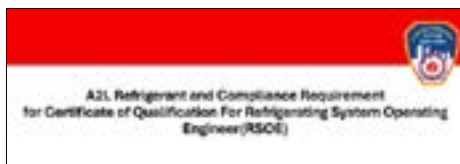
Local 94's training programs help improve the knowledge and skills of members to match the various changes in the industry. These improvements will positively affect the productivity of workers, which can increase the profits and efficiency of an organization. Some of the things members learn through training include work safety, visual simulators and hands on.



Training programs can also help prepare members who are moving into higher roles and taking on more responsibilities in a building. These programs will help them learn the skills that are required to function effectively in their new positions.

When members in a workplace are exposed to training, it helps to standardize the work process among the crew. In turn other team members will apply and follow similar procedures because of their exposure to similar training.

Local 94 Training Center working with FDNY A2L Classifications



With Local Law 97 entering our workspace and NYC going “Zero” carbon emissions by 2050 as Stationary Engineers, we must stay ahead of the curve. One of the main ingredients for accomplishing this goal is the use of Low GWP Refrigerants.

The HVAC industry is undergoing a significant transformation, and the 2025 A2L refrigerant transition is at the forefront of these changes. As global efforts to combat climate change intensify, the use of refrigerants with high global warming potential (GWP) is being phased out. In its place, newer refrigerants with lower GWP are being introduced. This transition, especially to A2L refrigerants, will reshape how heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems are designed, maintained, and operated.

The Local 94 Training Center has been working very closely with the FDNY Fire prevention team to aid in their understanding of the plus and minuses of these refrigerants.

We were tasked to put together a presentation on the safety practices for our members as well as the public. Over the Summer of 2024 we held seminars on the “Do’s” and “Don’ts” when handling A2L refrigerants during maintenance as well as installation.



A2L seminars will be available soon.

Currently, we are assisting the FDNY Code Committee as subject matter experts to help re-organize the Q01/Q99 COF chart with the new refrigerants coming in.



Photo by David Hawkins

Local 94 Pinnacle Award Winners

Local 94 Well Represented Among BOMA's 2024 Pinnacle Winners

Once again, a lion share of the winners for BOMA's (Building Owners and Managers Association) 2024 Pinnacle Awards were drawn from Local 94 members.

Each Fall, BOMA New York presents these awards to the top-tier buildings and individuals in the commercial real estate industry.

Listed here are the Local 94 winners of the 53rd Annual Pinnacle Awards.

Congratulations to our 2024 Winners!

NEW CONSTRUCTION

Two Manhattan West - Brookfield Properties

MIXED USE BUILDING

35 Hudson Yards - Related Companies

EMERGING LEADER

Jeremiah McGinley - George Comfort & Sons

EARTH

757 Third Avenue - JLL

OPERATING CATEGORY: 500,000 – 1 MILLION

730 Third Avenue - Cushman & Wakefield

CHIEF OPERATING ENGINEER

Glen Albrektsen - The Durst Organization

RENOVATED BUILDING

PENN 1 - Vornado Realty Trust

OPERATING CATEGORY: OVER 1 MILLION

1271 Avenue of the Americas - Rockefeller Group



Michael O'Connor

Do you sometimes wonder how much money you'll need to afford your desired retirement lifestyle?

Your IUOE Local 94 Annuity Fund individual account is a great source of income that can help get you there. In our last newsletter I talked about some of the resources available to you via the John Hancock website to help you manage your Annuity Account. Additionally, I briefly highlighted one of the online tools that can help you plan for your retirement: “My Retirement Planner.” In this column we will take a deeper dive and show you what this powerful tool can do. I encourage all of you, the next time you log in to your account, to take a few minutes and explore this great resource.

Where do I find My Retirement Planner?

The retirement planner is found on your Annuity Fund homepage at www.myplan.johnhancock.com or on John Hancock's retirement mobile app. On the homepage, just click on “Manage” and then “My Retirement Planner.”



How does it work?

The retirement planner helps you create a plan to meet your goals. It shows your estimated income in retirement, your unique projected spending, and your progress toward having your savings meet your needs. Best of all, it can help you develop a strategy to stay—or get—on track.

It begins with the information it has about you (including your Annuity Account current investments held and balance; and estimated annual Central Pension Fund benefit). Then you can make the projections even more personal to your situation by adding information such as:

- Other retirement accounts and sources of retirement income,
- Your planned retirement age,
- Your health information, and more!

Knowing now what your future could look like can help you make more informed

decisions about how much you should be saving today to help plan for your tomorrow.

Here's a look at what the My Retirement Planner screen looks like when you first access it, with some information to help you navigate and understand each area of the planner:

For more information, or if you need assistance, you can contact a John Hancock Participant Service Center representative at 1-833-38-UNION or 833-388-6466 between 8 a.m. and 10 p.m. Eastern Time.





Derek J. Davis

Aetna and Caremark to Provide Benefits Beginning 1/1/25

After a comprehensive review of the Medical and Hospital coverage provided to Local 94 members, dependents and retirees, the Trustees changed the medical coverage provider to Aetna. At the same time that review was underway, a coalition of Operating Engineers across the country evaluated prescription benefits and, as a result of that process, the Trustees changed the prescription coverage for active members to CVS Caremark. These changes went into effect on January 1, 2025.

By now, you should have received an Aetna card for the new year. If you have not received your Aetna Identification card, please contact the Health and Benefit Fund at 212-331-1800 so we can assist you with getting you the information that you need. The back of the Aetna card lists the updated codes to provide at your pharmacy for your CVS Caremark benefits. Each member and spouse will be sent an ID card that will hold up to 5 names on a card - larger families will receive an additional card for the member and spouse. Each dependent does not need their own card, although you may request additional cards directly online.

For our Commercial Medicare retirees, you should have received a new Aetna card for your medical coverage that will coordinate benefits with Medicare. You will continue to use the UnitedHealthcare prescription plan.

Aetna was selected as the Medical and Hospital provider due to its comprehensive coverage and strong network. You and your dependents will be able to access one of the largest nationwide networks of doctors and hospitals. These changes were made to preserve the same cost sharing so that your copay, deductible and coinsurance will not change. We have already seen little to no disruption with your healthcare provider(s), and our representatives at Aetna are also able to invite new doctors into their network.

Please visit the Aetna website listed on your card or use the link under the Local 94 website for additional information. The Health and Benefit Fund strongly encourages

all members and eligible participants to **download the Aetna app** from the Apple or Google store so that you can set up an account to easily access this information and manage your care with the convenience of your mobile device.

Pharmacy benefits under CVS Caremark for non-Medicare participants will be similar to the previous benefit, with minimal changes to formulary coverage, network coverage and utilization management edits.

Most mail order prescriptions have automatically transferred to Caremark, but you will have to contact CVS Customer Care by phone or online to set up payment information.

Maintenance medications (for 90-day refills) are now available to be filled in-person at a CVS Pharmacy, Costco Pharmacy, Kroger Pharmacy or through CVS mail order.

If you were taking a medication that was covered under OptumRx which is not covered under Caremark and you cannot take an alternative, your physician can request a medical exception by having their office contact the Pharmacy Help Desk to provide medical documentation for further review.

CVS Specialty Pharmacy will provide support for specialty medications and certain clinical support for complex conditions, including cancer, arthritis and others.

CVS Caremark provides the most current list of covered medications online at www.caremark.com/acsdruglist which will be updated each quarter. Members will be contacted if they will be affected by an upcoming change.

Please carefully read all the notices that have been mailed to you from the Local 94 Health Fund, Aetna and CVS Caremark - additional information is available online at the Local 94 website. We ask that you please be patient during the transition period as we work to continue providing you with the best benefits possible through our new vendors.

Please remember that if you have any questions about your benefits, you can contact Aetna directly at 833-821-0799,

CVS Caremark directly at 833-269-9417 or the Health and Benefit Fund staff at 212-331-1800.

Important Contact Information:

Aetna	www.aetna.com
Aetna Member Services	833-821-0799
Aetna Provider Services	888-632-3862

CVS Caremark	www.caremark.com
RxBIN: 004336	RXPCN: ADV
RXGRP: RX24GF	
Rx Customer Care	833-269-9417
Pharmacy Help Desk	800-364-6331

UnitedHealthcare
(Commercial Medicare Rx only)
Customer Service 866-691-8209

Local 94 Health & Benefit Fund Office
212-331-1800 or 212-541-9800

Holiday Coat & Toy Drive







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

Local 94 2025 Calendar

Wednesday March 12, 2025

General Membership Meeting

8:30AM, 2:00 PM, 5:00PM

Hotel Trades Council Auditorium,
305 W. 44th Street

Wednesday April 9, 2025

General Membership Meeting

8:30AM, 2:00 PM, 5:00PM

Hotel Trades Council Auditorium,
305 W. 44th Street

Monday May 12, 2025

*2025 Local 94 Scholarship
Spring Golf Outing*

LaTourette and South Shore
Golf Courses

Sign in 7:00AM

Double Shot Gun Start 8:00AM

\$175 Per Golfer

Jillian Loughnae

jillianloughnane@local94.com

(212) 331-1836

David Hawkins

davidhawkins@local94.com

(212) 331-1858

Wednesday May 14, 2025

*General Membership Meeting
Local 94 Nominations*

8:30AM, 2:00 PM, 5:00PM

Hotel Trades Council Auditorium,
305 W. 44th Street

Wednesday June 4, 2025

*Initiation Ceremony
for New Members*

4:00PM

Hotel Trades Council Auditorium,
305 W. 44th Street

Wednesday June 11, 2025

General Membership Meeting

8:30AM, 2:00 PM, 5:00PM

Hotel Trades Council Auditorium,
305 W. 44th Street

Service Awards Ceremony

Will be held at the 5:00pm Meeting

Saturday July 19, 2025

*Local 94 Family Picnic
Kruckers Catering & Picnic Grove*

81 Call Hollow Road
Pomona, NY

Contact: Vinny Curcio

(212) 331-1819

Wednesday August 13, 2025

*Tentative Election Meeting
(if necessary)*

8:30AM, 2:00 PM, 5:00PM

Hotel Trades Council Auditorium,
305 W. 44th Street

Wednesday September 3, 2025

General Membership Meeting

8:30AM, 2:00 PM, 5:00PM

Hotel Trades Council Auditorium,
305 W. 44th Street

Swearing-in Ceremony

see date change

Wednesday September 12, 2025

September 11th Memorial Mass

10:30AM

St. Malachy's R.C Church
239 West 49th Street

Wednesday October 1, 2025

*Initiation Ceremony
for New Member*

4:00PM

Hotel Trades Council Auditorium,
305 W. 44th Street

Wednesday October 6, 2025

2025 Local 94 Fall Golf Outing

Split Rock Golf Club, Bronx, NY
7AM Sign in / 8AM Shotgun start

Wednesday October 8, 2025

General Membership Meeting

8:30AM, 2:00 PM, 5:00PM

Hotel Trades Council Auditorium,
305 W. 44th Street

Wednesday November 12, 2025

General Membership Meeting

8:30AM, 2:00 PM, 5:00PM

Hotel Trades Council Auditorium,
305 W. 44th Street

Wednesday December 10, 2025

Holiday Toy & Coat Drive

Members are urged to bring a new
toy and/or a "gently" worn coat to be
distributed to local charities

General Membership Meeting

8:30AM, 2:00 PM, 5:00PM

Hotel Trades Council Auditorium,
305 W. 44th Street

Visit the Local 94 website at www.local94.com for updates