



LOCAL 444 SEIU
SANITATION OFFICERS ASSOCIATION



5 Local 444 SOA offers scholarships



5 Member needs help — donate blood



6 Gov signs 9/11 Bill into law

INAUGURAL ISSUE
 Vol. 1 Issue 1

UNITY

From left: Councilman Philip Reed, President Joseph Mannion, Thomas Sanchez, A/C Brian Light, Frances Sanchez, Chief Peter McKeon, Michael Sanchez, Supv. Patrick Flynn, and Supv. Roger Rebando.



Photo by Mazzocchi

Sanitation Officers Name Street For Former Member

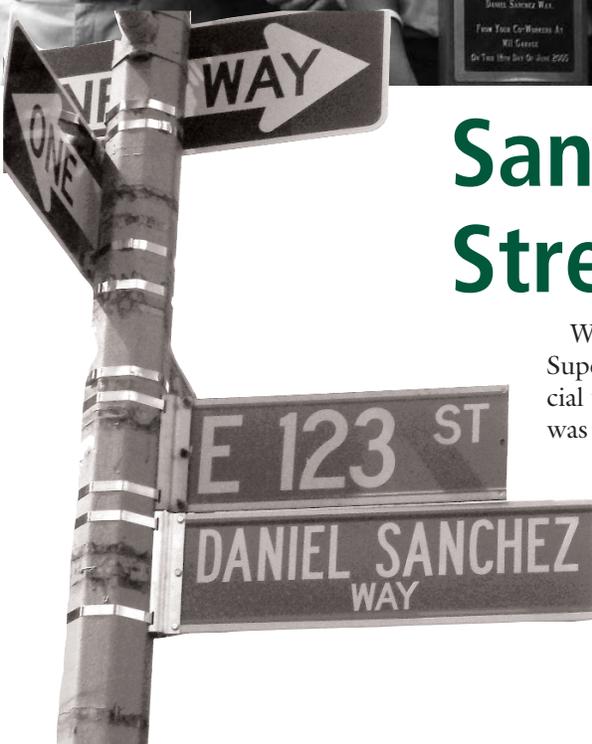
When Supv. Daniel Sanchez died from a heart attack while doing his duties as a Section Supervisor in M11, Local 444 District Supt. Frank Diaz knew there had to be some special way to remember the life of this remarkable man. On June 18, 2005, Daniel's name was placed in the history books as 123rd Street between Third Avenue and Lexington Avenue became forever known as "Daniel Sanchez Way."

The following is the speech made by Local 444 President Joseph Mannion at the street naming ceremony.

"Today we're gathered here not to feel sad or remorse, but to celebrate and honor the life of our brother and friend Supv. Danny Sanchez.

Danny touched many of our lives in so many ways — with his wide smile, usu-

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IN UNITY

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LOCAL 444 — SEIU
Sanitation Officers Association

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BKW Carlos Rivera
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BKE (4-12) Joseph Dawson
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BKN (12-8) Philip Russo
(718) 756-7027/7028
QS Chris Klingler
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NEWSLETTER

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Message From President MANNION



It is with great pride and excitement that I introduce the next phase of our Unity Fund Plan — our new Union newsletter called “In Unity.” During our last round of Outer Boro meetings, many of you requested a means of being informed more regularly about what’s taking place within our Union and about what we’re doing on the Albany and New York City legislative fronts that affects our lives.

This maiden issue of In Unity kicks off what we’re hoping to produce six times a year. The newsletter will be for you, and about you. We’re encouraging all members to send in news about your families that you’d like to share with other members — births, milestone birthdays or anniversaries, high school and college graduations — and be sure to include photos. I recommend you all keep your copies of In Unity for future reference as each issue will contain important information that directly affects you. We want this newsletter to be a success, and that requires your input. Let us know what you’d like to see included in future issues.

At the 22nd SEIU International Convention held in 2000, the International President and Executive Board, along with the a majority of the Delegates, voted to mandate a “New Strength Unity Plan.” To date, we have been highly successful in accomplishing many of the plan’s goals, including:

◆ **NEW COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY:** We introduced a Local 444 website that gave our members the ability to check eligibility for their benefits and for active members to research the transfer system. This was a monumental task, but a great way for members to be able to look at transfers from home. The website also has important links to other sites that are beneficial for members.

◆ **POLITICAL ACTION:** We implemented a Legislative Lobby program that holds politicians accountable to our members. I hired a Lobbyist, Floyd Holloway (retired 1st Vice President for the Transit Police Union) to help us gain benefits through legislation. Floyd was the architect for the Correction Captains and Officers in achieving their VSE. There is no one better than Floyd to help us get ours. We set up phone banks in the Union Hall to work on the political campaigns of politicians we’re endorsing. Whether our candidates win or lose, we are all winners because of our involvement, which is noticed both locally and in Albany when we need things done.

◆ **EDUCATE SHOP STEWARDS:** One of our greatest accomplishments was to establish a Convention to educate our dedicated Shop Stewards. Our first Convention was in 2002. This year we have 36 Shop Stewards eligible to attend the Convention, scheduled for September 16-18, 2005. Guest speakers are invited to inform and educate our Shop Stewards so they can better represent you. During our last round of contract bargaining, we even negotiated release time for eligible Delegates, which was overwhelmingly approved by the membership.

◆ **BUILD UNITY AND STRENGTH:** I arranged for Union Officers to be more accessible to the membership and changed the General Membership meetings (nine per year) to a new location and a more convenient time. This allows more members to attend. We even set up additional meetings located in each of the seven Boros in order to better reach out to all of you in an informal atmosphere in your home Boro. Please take advantage of all these meetings. They are for your benefit.

◆ **SUPPORT FROM OTHER UNIONS:** Local 444 is a member of the New York State Public Employee Conference (PEC), an organization of more than 50 municipal labor unions statewide. I was elected PEC Treasurer. Our union is also a member of the NYC Municipal Labor Committee (MLC), which represents all of the City's Public Employees, a member of the NYS AFL-CIO, and a member of the NYC Central Labor Council. Being a part of these larger umbrella organizations gives our union a stronger voice and a stronger hand with which to accomplish our goals.

Our union has come a long way in the past several years. This new newsletter is one of the changes we’re implementing to make us even better. With this publication, my goal is to have a well-informed membership so we all feel as one. For “In Unity” there is strength and power.

Daniel Sanchez Way

Continued from Page 1

ally from ear to ear, and his tremendous sense of humor. If I may quote from his Funeral Mass, 'You could always rely on Danny to make an otherwise serious situation funny or to make you laugh even if you didn't want to.' Danny was a pure pleasure to be around because that was 'Danny Sanchez's Way.'

As we dedicate this street to Danny, he will forever be remembered by those who knew and loved him. As years go by and people who never had the pleasure of knowing Danny look up at this sign, they will say to themselves that this must have been a great and important man to have a street named after him. They would be correct because this is no run-of-the-mill street. This is a street in the greatest city in the United States. We are standing on Daniel Sanchez Way, New York City, New York, the Capital of the World.

The members of Local 444 already know this, and it's common knowledge, but I think it is important for the Sanchez family and friends to hear the following. Danny dedicated more than 22 years to the Department of Sanitation and even in death he made a monumental contribution to the uniformed members of the Department of Sanitation.

You see, 2004 was a very emotional year for Local 444 members, with events that actually started in late 2003. First our union experienced the death of Supv. Abdiel Wright (BK17), followed in February 2004 by the death of Supv. Eddy Thomas (M7), and then on March 4, with the death of Danny, who was assigned to Section 3, M11. After Danny's death, when it seemed that we didn't have the ability to get over the shock and loss of so many, we lost two more in March 2004 — Supv. James McMillan (BKN3), and Supv. Joseph Mitchell (QE12).

With great sadness I must say that the last day before the Governor had to make a decision on signing our Heart Bill into law, the Sanitation family lost one more — Sanitation Worker Louis Giuffrida, assigned to QE13.

I, along with my brothers and sisters of Local 444, will forever be in debt to the ultimate sacrifices Danny and the rest have given. They helped us show our elected officials the need for such a benefit. In closing I would again like to quote from Danny's Funeral Mass.

Psalm 112:5-6 ... 'The man who is gracious and lends, who conducts his affairs with justice; he shall never be moved; the just man shall be in everlasting remembrance.'

“As years go by and people who never had the pleasure of knowing Danny look up at this sign, they will say to themselves that this must have been a great and important man to have a street named after him.”

— Joe Mannion
President



Photo by Mazzocchi

IN UNITY

Shop Stewards

Manhattan

M1	Lawrence Bilicki
M2	Joseph Rodriguez
M3	Nicholas Morrone
M4	John Johnston
M5	Jose Zacaraiz
M6	Jose Cruz
M7	Peter Cullen
M8	Mike Brown
M9	Daniel Paesano
M10	John Laporta
M11	John Kendrick
M12	Jorge Ortiz

Bronx

BX1	Richard Pedone
BX2	Lewis Hernandez
BX3	Richard Treglia
BX4	William Troche
BX5	James McGovern
BX6	Bill Williams
BX7	Ray Schinnick
BX8	Steve Rosso
BX9	Anthony Amore
BX10	James Minore
BX11	Al Pappalardi
BX12	Mike Cambria

Brooklyn

BK1	Carl Consolo
BK2	William Newlin
BK3	Vincent Cutrupi
BK4	Philip Rodriguez
BK5	John Mickle
BK6	Pete Maggio
BK7	Thomas Crowley
BK8	Angela Francis
BK9	Philip Monachino
BK10	Gerald Iacono
BK11	Carlos Rivera
BK12	Vincent Buccheri
BK13	Frank Scaduto
BK14	James Murray
BK15	Francis Walsh
BK16	Albert Gray
BK17	Patsy Sorrentino
BK18	Terrance Winters

Queens

Q1	William Magill
Q2	Louis Lentine
Q3	Robert Adams
Q4	Thomas Sciacca
Q5	James Kraly
Q6	Richard Moore
Q7	Phil Camilleri
Q8	Dennis O'Reilly
Q9	Robert Cole
Q10	Nicholas Biscardi
Q11	Chuck McDonald
Q12	Christopher Klingler
Q13	Roger Rebando
Q14	Robert Tippen

Staten Island

SI1	Steven Woolverton
SI2	Leonard Buopane
SI3	Richard Lauser

Splinter Groups

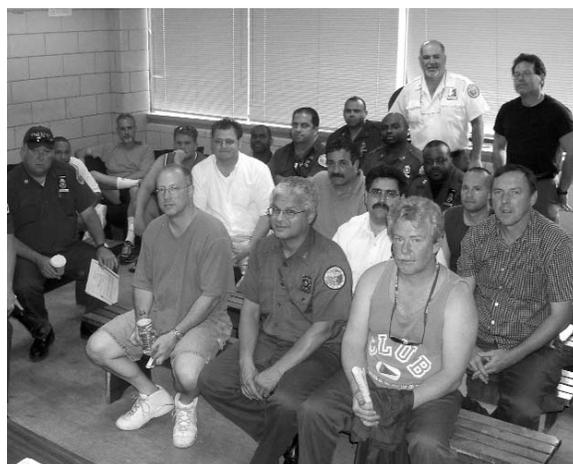
SP	Charles Diaz
DVO	Kevin Lyons
Lots	Al Maesano
	Joseph Gallipani
OAU	Roy Brandquist
TU	John Tedesco
FK	Mike Ponsiglione
BWD Export	George Nieves

OUTER BORO MEETINGS

Top Row: BKN (6/16); 2nd Row: BX (6/23), BKS (6/29); QW (6/28); 3rd Row: SI (6/21), MANH (6/17); 4th Row: QE (6/15), QE (6/15).



All Photos by Mazzocchi



When the current officers of Local 444 took office 12 years ago, one of the top goals was to reach out to members on a regular basis, in addition to the membership meetings. President Joe Mannion said that's why he implemented the Outer Boro Meetings.

"These meetings are a chance for members to get together in their own boros and discuss any issues of importance and concern with the officers," Mannion said. "We travel to each boro so we can meet face to face with the members we represent and the members can ask us in person about anything on their minds."

With this last round of Outer Boro meetings in June 2005, more than 100 members turned out to have their questions addressed.

Local 444-SOA Offers 9th Annual Scholarships

Local 444 Sanitation Officers Association is once again offering two \$1,000 scholarships to eligible dependents of active union members. Since the program's inception in 1997, 21 scholarships have been awarded, totaling \$17,450.

"This is a great chance for our union to give something back to our members," said President Joe Mannion. "With the ever-rising cost of college tuition, every little bit helps."

Scholarship applications are currently available at the Union Office, from Borough Delegates, Supervisor Reps, and GS1 Reps. All applications must be postmarked no later than October 14, 2005, and mailed to: SOA Scholarship Award, 8510 Bay 16th Street, 2nd Floor, Brooklyn, NY 11214.

Winners will be drawn by lottery at the November 2005 General Membership Meeting and scholarships will be presented at the December 2005 meeting. No prior winners are eligible.

The following are the terms and conditions for applicants:

- ◆ All applications must have an attached verification of student status (student letter)
- ◆ Student letter must show proof of full-time student status in an accredited school of continuing education
- ◆ One application per dependent child
- ◆ If members have more than one dependent child, a separate application must be submitted for each
- ◆ An eligible dependent is one who is currently on file with the SBF if over 19 years of age. Eligibility must be established prior to submission of application.
- ◆ Union members must be in good standing status for one year and a member of the Association for at least one year prior to dependent submitting an application

"We encourage members to have their dependent children apply for these scholarships. While we wish we could give away more, you can't win if you don't apply," Mannion said.

PICA Plan Changed July 1

Effective July 1, the PICA plan no longer covers psychotropic and asthma medications. They will, however, be covered by the Sanitation Officers Security Benefit Fund's (SBF) prescription drug program.

All prescriptions should now be mailed to: Express Scripts, Mail Pharmacy Service, 3684 Marshal Lane, Bensalem, PA 19020-5914.

Your medication history has been carried over to the SBF, which has retained the same cost containment procedures adopted by the former PICA plan.

President Joe Mannion said that rapidly rising costs last year prompted the City to consider ending its coverage of these drugs, which totals about \$150 million annually for all City employees, non-Medicare retirees and their dependents in the City's Health Benefits Program.

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A Brief NOTE

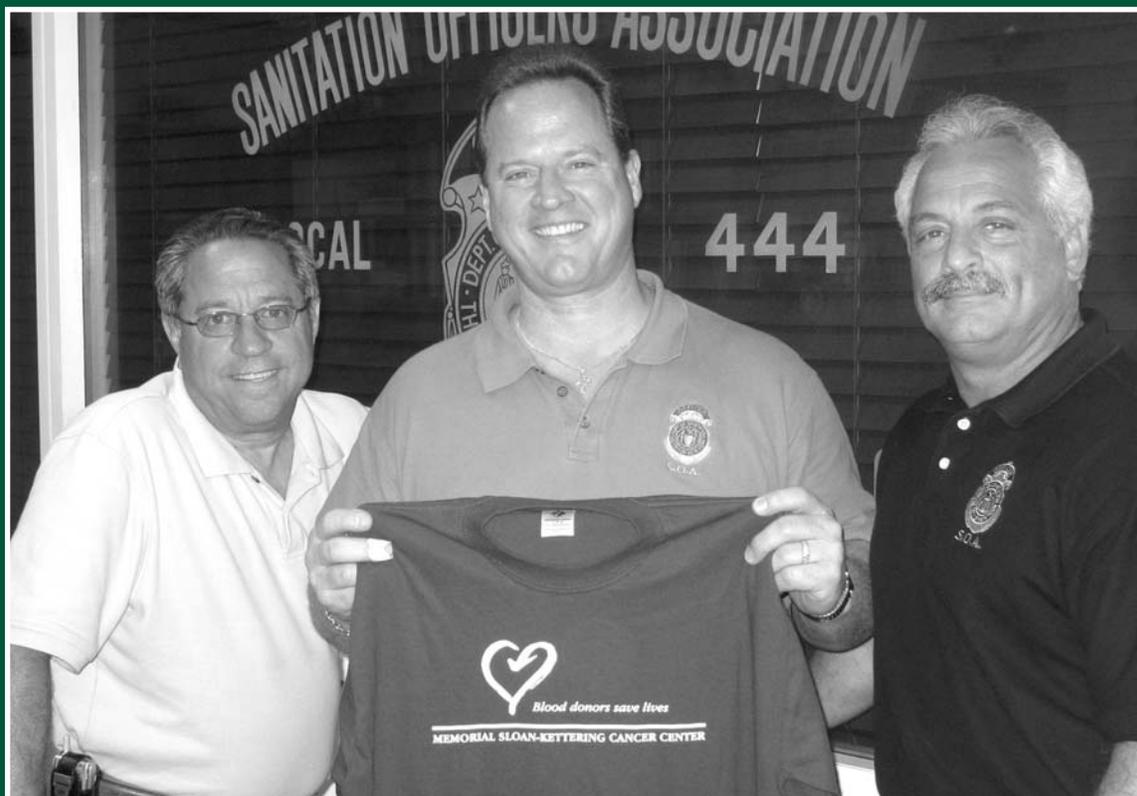
PLEASE DONATE —Supv. Nano Flegar (M6) needs our help. He is currently a patient at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in NYC. His treatment requires both blood and platelet transfusions. Nano and his family would appreciate your donation of blood and/or platelets. For information about eligibility and the donation process, go to www.mskcc.org/blooddonations.

To schedule an appointment and to ensure that Nano will have blood products when he needs them, please call Ms. Mary Thomas at (212) 639-3335 or the Blood Donor Room at (212) 639-7648. Appointments are necessary and donations must be made at MSKCC. The Blood Room is open Tuesday-Thursday from 8:30 a.m.-7:00 p.m.; Monday and Friday-Sunday from 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

MSKCC is located at 1250 First Avenue between 67th and 68th Streets in Manhattan. Free parking is available for donors at their garage on 66th Street and York Avenue.

Donating blood takes about one hour and donating platelets, about two and a half hours. All blood types are acceptable.

President Joe Mannion (center), Joseph Castagno, Recording Secretary (right) and Jerry Saporito 2nd Vice President (left) show the t-shirt they each received for donating blood at MSKCC. After they donated, they visited Nano Flegar to wish him well.



Governor Signs Monumental 9/11 Bill Into Law

Governor Pataki signed into law in June monumental legislation guaranteeing first responders to the tragic events of September 11, 2001, an easier time qualifying for disability pensions.

With more than 200 labor leaders, union members, friends and family looking on, the Governor said, "The heroes who responded to the horrific attacks of September 11 clearly put the needs of the victims first."

Chapter 93 of the Laws of 2005 provides that any current or future illness, even after retirement, directly related to the events of September 11, 2001, be presumptively eligible for accidental disability.

"A lot of time and effort went into getting this bill signed into law. Our union, as part of the New York State Public Employee Conference, worked hand in hand with PEC to guarantee we got these protections," said President Joe Mannion, who

is also PEC Treasurer. "So many of our members worked either at Ground Zero or in the cleanup that it was crucial we got this new law in place in order to grant them some protection in the future."

Governor Pataki said that this new law recognizes the tremendous effort put forth by those who responded to the terrorist attacks.

It ensures that they receive appropriate compensation for disabilities they may have suffered as a result of their involvement in the rescue, recovery and cleanup efforts. "New Yorkers will never forget the tragic events of that day, nor will we forget those who answered the call to duty without hesitation," he said.

Diseases covered by the law include cancer, respiratory illness and certain skin conditions. The law also creates a September 11 Worker Protection Task Force to review and examine evidence about adverse health effects

on workers who participated in the World Trade Center efforts.

In addition to Governor Pataki, several Legislative leaders also attended, including Brooklyn Senator Martin Golden and State Assemblyman Peter Abbate.

"Today we take a necessary step toward aiding those who so courageously answered the call to help New York in the aftermath of the attacks on the World Trade Center. The individuals who responded to Ground Zero exhibited extraordinary heroism," Senator Golden said at the Battery Park bill signing.

Assemblyman Abbate agreed and said, "Many of the men and women who responded during our City, State and Country's darkest hours are experiencing serious health problems directly related to the rescue, recovery and clean-up efforts. This law ensures that they will be forever protected for their efforts from such service."



President Joseph Mannion listens as Governor George Pataki addresses the crowd prior to signing the new law (top photo). President Mannion with Brooklyn State Senator Martin Golden (center photo). Labor leaders and public officials watch as Governor Pataki signs the bill into law (bottom photo).



About Our MEMBERS



In Memoriam:

Raymond Bailey (Ret) 1/10/05
 Patrick Regan (Ret) 1/11/05
 Frank Sapone (Ret) 3/17/05
 Luke Leheny (Ret) 3/20/05
 Gasper Locasio (Ret) 3/21/05
 Louis Molinari (Ret) 3/28/05
 Bernard Tworowski (Ret) . . . 4/12/05
 John Brancato (Ret) 4/15/05
 Patrick Mullan (Ret) 4/20/05
 Albert Harris (Ret) 5/04/05
 Arthur Janson (Ret) 5/04/05
 Jerry Lucibello (Ret) 5/05/05
 Orlando Deblasio (Ret) 5/07/05
 Albert Stumpf (Ret) 5/21/05
 Arthur Beyhl (Ret) 5/22/05
 Julius Miller (Ret) 6/15/05

In Memoriam Family:

Dom Ferrucci, former 1st VP, (Ret) —
 (Father-in-Law)
 Supv. William Ammatuna, BKN3 —
 (Father)
 Supv. James Buckner, SI2 —
 (Father-in-Law)
 Supt. Vincent Caruso, Sanitation Police —
 (Father)
 Supv. John Livingston, Bronx Boro —
 (Brother-in-Law)
 Supv. Arthur Mondella Jr., BWD Export —
 (Father)
 Supv. John Parra, BX9 — (Brother)
 Supv. David Shelborne, SSLU — (Son)
 Supv. Bruce Braithwaite, BKS18 — (Father)
 Supt. Michael Warren, BX12 — (Father)
 John Nemer (Ret.) — (Sister)
 Asst. Chief Stephen Congelosi, (Ret) —
 (Wife)
 Chief David Nati (Ret) — (Wife)

Retiring Members:

Supv. Joseph Saltamacchia, BKS15,
 (6/1/05)
 Supv. William Lunny, M10, (6/1/05)
 Supv. Samuel Sadofsky, BX2, (6/30/05)
 Supv. Joseph Barcia, BX2, (7/1/05)
 Supv. Michael Belfi, M10, (7/1/05)
 Supv. Michael Conlon, M5, (7/1/05)
 Supv. Carl Fera, M4, (7/1/05)
 Supt. Thomas Lynch, Manh Boro, (7/1/05)
 Supt. Thomas Shovlin, Manh Boro, (7/1/05)
 Supv. John Kelly, Sanitation Police, (7/9/05)
 Supv. John Bleszcz, BKS13, (7/16/05)

Newborn Children:

Supv. William Ammatuna, BKN3, (Daughter)
 Supv. Joseph Arancio, SI3, (Son)
 Supv. Nicholas Basso, BKN2, (Daughter)
 Supv. Joseph Campise, QE7, (Daughter)
 Supt. Eugene Cipriano, BKS15, (Son)
 Supv. Frank Daigneault, BKN2, (Daughter)
 Supv. Anthony D'Onofrio, QE12, (Son)
 Supv. Kevin Finnerty, DVO, (Daughter)
 Supv. Stephen Heyen, BKN8, (Daughter)
 Supv. Joseph Mauro, QE8, (Son)
 Supt. David Trupia, OAU, (Daughter)
 Supv. Keith Woods, BKS7, (Daughter)
 Supv. Paul Brown, ME8, (Daughter)

Serving America:

(Letters of encouragement and packages are appreciated)

Supv. Danny Machiavello (M11) Iraq
 ALPHA CO 1/69 INF.
 256 BCT
 A.P.O AE 09326

 Supv. Robert Cole (QW9) (Daughter)
 2LT Claire Cole (Mosul, Iraq)
 94th EN. BN., HSC
 A.P.O. AE 09334

A Brief NOTE

COLLEGE LETTERS DUE

— Active and Retired members with dependents ages 19 to 23 who are attending college full time must submit proof of registration for the upcoming Fall semester. A letter that is signed, dated and bears the seal of the College Registrar, stating that the dependent is a full-time, matriculated student, is required as proof of eligibility for welfare benefits. Dental and prescription claims for dependents whose letters have expired will not be honored. Dates on all claims must correspond with semesters of enrollment in order to receive payment. Please submit letter to the Fund office by Sept. 1, 2005. The fulltime student letter can be mailed or faxed to the Fund office at 718-837-9347.

Hold The DATE

September

- 5 Labor Day
- 8 Membership Meeting
- 16-18 Shop Steward Convention
- 22 Autumn Begins

ABOUT THIS COLUMN

In keeping with the goal of our new newsletter, which is to run articles and columns of importance and interest to our members, we're encouraging all members to send in announcements of special events in their family's lives. Please include photos if possible — birth of a child, milestone birthday or anniversary, child's high school or college graduation, for example.

Along with your photos, please include your name, a daytime and evening phone number (in case we need to contact you), and some important information about the event.

We will try to return photos, but do not send originals that cannot be replaced.
 Send all information and photos to:

In UNITY, Local 444 SEIU, 8510 Bay 16th Street, 2nd Floor, Brooklyn, NY 11214

Heart Bill Now Law

The Heart Bill that Governor Pataki signed into law at the end of last year took effect earlier this month on July 1. This new law gives all Uniformed Sanitation Officers and Workers who are disabled with a heart illness, a pension benefit equal to three-fourths of their salary.

“It was a monumental day when the Governor signed this bill into law, and now it’s another monumental time that the law took effect,” said President Joseph Mannion. “While we hope that none of our members ever needs to qualify for the benefits this law provides, the reality is that someone, at some time, is going to need to take advantage of them.”

Mannion said it took a strong coordinated effort on the part of so many to see the Heart Bill come to fruition. Through the combined efforts of Local 444 Lobbyist Floyd Holloway, union officials, and active and retired members who sent hundreds and hundreds of letters to elected officials, including Gov. Pataki, the pressure was on to get this legislation passed.

“Since taking office as President in 1994, one of my top goals was getting bills passed that benefit our members,” Mannion said. “This Heart Bill was definitely one of my top priorities, especially in light of all the members we lost in the past couple of years.”

The deaths of Supv. Abdiel Wright (BK17), Supv. Eddy Thomas (M7), Supv. Daniel Sanchez (M11), Supv. James McMillan (BKN3), Supv. Joseph Mitchell (QE12), and Sanitation Worker Louis Giuffrida (QE13), were all prime examples of why Uniformed Sanitation Officers and Workers so desperately needed this bill signed into law.

“I want to thank each and every one of you and your families, especially all those who sent our draft letter to Governor Pataki requesting that this bill be signed into law,” Mannion told members in a letter mailed out several months ago.

Mannion said New York City Council Speaker Gifford Miller played a large part in getting this bill signed into law by working with Albany legislators.

“Local 444 did this bill with the memories of Danny, Abdiel, Eddy, James and Joseph burning in their hearts,” Mannion said. “It was a long time in coming, but for those members and their families who need the benefits this law provides, it was worth every minute of our effort.”

President Joe Mannion thanks Governor George Pataki for supporting Sanitation Officers and Workers by signing the Heart Bill into law.



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CHANGE OF ADDRESS?
Call the Union to update your records.
718-837-9832

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