



LOCAL 444 SEIU  
**SANITATION OFFICERS ASSOCIATION**



**3** Union Lobby Day



**4-5** 2010 Snow Storm



**5** Retirees Update

Vol. 6 Issue 1  
 Jan-March 2010

# IN UNITY



**2010  
 SNOW STORM**

**SOA HARD AT WORK**

Pages 4-5

# IN UNITY

An Official Publication of  
**Sanitation Officers Association**  
**LOCAL 444 — SEIU**

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## NEWSLETTER

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marci@rwdgroup.com



## President MANNION

As I'm sure you noticed, the last issue of our newsletter was our "Holiday Card" issue. In the past, the Union used to send out Holiday cards to the entire membership. We at SOA decided that with the success of the "In Unity" newsletter, we would incorporate our Holiday card into the newsletter that comes out closest to the holiday season. This would save the Union the costs attributed with printing the Holiday card and the postage, and still be able to wish our members the spirit of the Holiday season.

The reason I mention this is that we have received a few calls from members about not receiving our Holiday card; they thought that maybe we were mad at them. Well, this is far from the truth and I thought that there might be more of you out there feeling the same way, not knowing the reason for the change that we implemented. Sorry for any confusion or more importantly, hurt feelings.

This year got off to a whopping start with the weather. Three big snowstorms in just over a week during February really kept our members busy. I remember when I was little (hey, it wasn't that long ago!) and snow storms were more spread out during the long winter months. Now it seems as if we get dumped on all at once. More proof that times are changing. I want to thank everyone for the hard work (and overtime) they put in during the February blizzards. Special thanks to Supv. Matt Ryan (DVO) for taking and submitting the photos on the front page and pages 4-5 of our newsletter. These are the types of photos we are looking for members to send in. If anyone took other photos from the clean-up, we'd love to run them in the next issue. Be sure to send them into the office. The Officers can't be in all places at all times, so we're counting on all of you for those really great on-the-job shots.

The weather hasn't been the only problem so far, however. Things in Albany are moving at a snail's pace (a huge surprise, right?) Our union joined more than 60 other labor unions as part of the New York State Public

Employee Conference's Annual Legislative Day to send a unified message to legislators that we expect action on our bills this year. Of course, anything with a fiscal implication is off the table as the State and City are both in debt. This is a great time for legislators to act on bills without monetary strings attached. We are working closely with our lobbyist Bing Markee, and will keep you updated.

By now you've all probably heard that Gov. Paterson will not be running for another term. For many, that was not an unexpected announcement. He took over for a disgraced Eliot Spitzer when he resigned after his infamous scandal and Gov. Paterson hasn't had much in his favor since that time. While Election Day 2010 is still many months away, the gloves will be coming off soon as the battle to lead our State plays out. Many legislators will be turning to our union and all others throughout New York seeking support for their campaigns. It's important that we send a strong message to anyone running for office that if we don't get your support in this legislative session, you won't be getting ours come campaign time.

On a somewhat different note, Mayor Bloomberg's plan to close a budget deficit of nearly \$5 billion leans heavily on unions to accept concessions on salary, health benefits and/or pensions. This is unacceptable. Forcing our members to make concessions on benefits we've earned or negotiated in our contracts is a slap in the face. The Mayor's budget balancing "solution", as usual, is to freeze or reduce government services. Just last year, unions already agreed to changes in health-care programs that saved the City \$400 million over a two-year period, with \$150 million of that recurring. It's high time that both the City and the State realize that it's municipal workers that keep the City running and they are going to have to make their cuts elsewhere.

With all this going on, snowstorms seem like the least of our worries. We'll keep you posted.

## Shop Stewards

### Manhattan

M1	Joseph Arcardo
M2	Joseph Rodriguez
M3	Alexander Chorny
M4	John Johnston
M5	Neftali DelRio
M6	Michael Macchia
M7	Peter Cullen
M8	Eric DeJesus
M9	Ricardo Santiago
M10	Dean Seagers
M11	Jason Permyu
M12	Juan Reyes

### Bronx

BX1	Gil Soto
BX2	Lewis Hernandez
BX3	Robert Landi
BX4	William Troche
BX5	Mitchel Cruz
BX6	Anthony Marquez
BX7	Kevin Croke
BX8	Thomas Hopkins
BX9	James Murphy
BX10	Joseph Brennan
BX11	Anthony Albert
BX12	Michael Cambria

### Brooklyn

BK1	Dennis Gordon
BK2	William Newlin
BK3	Vincent Murdock
BK4	Kevin Neuner
BK5	John Mickle
BK6	Louis Zupo
BK7	Patsy Sorrentino
BK8	Rashid Smith
BK9	Thomas Rice
BK10	Gerald Iacono
BK11	Michael Ponzio
BK12	Vincent Buccheri
BK13	Louis Vacca
BK14	Anthony Vitale
BK15	John Naimoli
BK16	Albert Gray
BK17	Greg Dalton
BK18	Vincent Mammolito

### Queens

Q1	William Doak
Q2	Keith McClean
Q3	Robert Luizzi
Q4	Arthur Aloe
Q5	James Kraly
Q6	Richard Moore
Q7	Michael Avellino
Q8	Carlos Perez
Q9	Richard Treglia
Q10	Gary Ponte
Q11	Chuck McDonald
Q12	Paul Busciolano
Q13	Frank Lapera
Q14	Ralph Guerrini

### Staten Island

SI1	Steve Woolverton
SI2	Leonard Buopane
SI3	James Buckner

### Splinter Groups

SP	Robert D'Angelo
DVO	Kevin Lyons
Lots	Vincent Cerbone
	Joseph Walls
OAU	Roy Brandquist
FK	Roger Vatter
BWD Export	George Nieves

# SOA HEADS TO ALBANY FOR UNION LOBBY DAY

Six guest speakers. Six uniquely worded messages. One consistent theme. That was what labor leaders heard when they gathered in Albany for the annual legislative day of the New York State Public Employee Conference.

President Joe Mannion and Recording Secretary Artie Catenacci represented the SOA at this year's annual New York State Public Employee Conference Legislative Breakfast. Although no food was actually served (thanks to laws governing what politicians can receive from groups lobbying them), this yearly event gives the more than 60 member unions of NYSPEC a chance to present their legislative agenda to New York's legislative leaders and ask for their support in getting bills passed.

Guest speakers included State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Senators Diane Savino and Martin Golden, Assemblyman Peter Abbate, and Senate Deputy Majority Leader John Sampson. No matter who was addressing the crowd, the message was the same: 2010 is going to be a tough year. Legislators and unions need to work together.

"The Executive Budget proposed and presented to the Legislature by Governor Paterson is a patchwork of painful decisions that will make



From Left: Matarazzo, Meringolo, Senate Deputy Majority Leader John Sampson, Mannion and Colangelo.

life more difficult for working families throughout the state of New York," said Speaker Silver. "We understand quite clearly the immediacy of the fiscal challenges facing our state and we are committed to balancing the budget through thoughtful and responsible cuts in spending." Silver said that the relationship between unions and the Legislature is a "longstanding partnership that gets things done. We must work together with the Governor, with the Senate, and with the Mayor to forge balanced budgets that make the necessary spending cuts, but do so in a thoughtful and responsible manner."

Senator John Sampson, Deputy Majority Leader, spoke along similar lines. "Nobody has done more to improve the quality of life for everyday New Yorkers than our brothers and sisters of the public workforce. You have kept us strong,

kept us together, and kept us moving forward, which is especially important during these difficult economic times. Our priorities are simple: create jobs, control spending and provide tax relief for overburdened New Yorkers." He said that there is a commitment to protecting benefits for those who work so hard on behalf of



Pictured from left: NYSPEC Legislative Director Lou Matarazzo, NYSPEC Chairman Peter Meringolo, Senators Diane Savino and Martin Golden, SOA President Joe Mannion (also NYSPEC Treasurer), Local 246 President and NYSPEC Recording Secretary Joe Colangelo, and NYSPEC Attorney Harry Greenberg.

# 4

About our

# MEMBERS

### IN MEMORIAM:

- SW Frank Justich (Q1) .....1/26/10
- Mike Pellegrino (Ret. 1981) .....1/9/10
- Vito Colletta (Ret. 1996) .....1/16/10
- Seymour Sperber (Ret. 1980) .....1/17/10
- Ralph Mennella (Ret. 1971) .....1/25/10
- Harold Relucio (Ret. 1973) .....1/30/10
- David Richards (Ret. 2007) .....1/30/10
- Kenneth Warren (Ret. 1973) .....1/31/10
- Claude Amallobieta (Ret. 1994) .....2/17/10
- Frank Lopiano (Ret. 1981) .....2/21/10
- Salvatore Trombadore (Ret. 1994) .....2/23/10

### IN MEMORIAM (Family & Friends):

- Supv. Richard Treglia, Q9-ShopSteward ..... Father
- Supv. Anthony Colaianni, San Police.....Sister
- Supv. Keith Hungreder, QW1 ..... Mother
- Supv. Joe Mauro, Q10 ..... Father-in-law
- Ret. Supv. Joseph Rende, SSLU.....Wife
- Ret. Supv. Larry Pugh, M5 ..... Brother

### RETIRING MEMBERS:

- Angelo Acosta, Bk14 ..... 1/1/10
- James Alexander, Q5..... 1/1/10
- Jose Pesante, M9..... 1/12/10
- Charles Diaz, SP .....1/30/10
- Alfonso DePalma, Q5..... 1/31/10
- David Hudon, LCU ..... 2/1/10
- Joseph Lemmo, PIU..... 2/1/10
- Bryant Small, PIU ..... 2/1/10
- Joseph Difede, BkS ..... 2/15/10
- Steven Wagner, Bk17.....2/28/10
- Jorge Gabino, M9..... 3/1/10
- Gary Ruffino, Bx ..... 3/1/10
- Edward Hansen, Bx ..... 3/11/10
- John Yodice, Sl3 .....3/27/10
- David Maldonado, Bk7 ..... 3/30/10
- Dennis Vardaro, Bk17.....3/31/10

## Member

# LETTERS

Dear Mr. Mannion,

My husband passed away on 11/30/2009. His name is James D’Allegro. He was my ray of sunshine and I’m lost without him. I felt I was drowning in paperwork and needed help in understanding what I had to do. I made several calls to Rector Street which made my head spin.

I then spoke with Glenn Ferber, Dominick Ferrucci and Frank Mazzocchi and felt encouraged that everything will work out and they will help me through the process. They truly are knowledgeable and proficient. I want to commend you for having these great men on your staff. It’s a difficult time in my life. I greatly appreciate your kindness and consideration for your Retirees.

All my best,

Jean D’Allegro

*(I thank you for your kind words and for the time you took from your day to acknowledge these three fine and dedicated men. Their dedication is an example of all of our willingness and desire to help our entire Active and Retired brother’s and sister’s. Thank you and God Bless you! — JM)*

## SHARE YOUR NEWS

If you have news to share with other members, send the information, along with photos, so we can publish them in our newsletter. Photos printed from a desktop printer will not reproduce well in our newsletter. All photos should be e-mailed in either jpg or tiff formats. All information can be sent to: IN UNITY, SOA, 8510 Bay 16th St., 2nd Floor, Brooklyn, NY 11214

## 2010 SNOW STORM SOA HARD AT WORK

Hi Guys,

*I have been getting the newsletter and it’s great to see the brotherhood in action. I am enclosing a few photos of this last storm. I hope they come through. Being in a splinter group, I get to touch base with a lot of fellow officers in the 5 boros...well 4; I rarely make it to Staten Island. It makes me very proud to be a Sanitation Officer when I see my brothers out there on the road or*

*in the districts dealing with the headaches that we all know come with the job and still have a positive attitude, some friendly ribbing or just a smile. I am blessed to be a part of this Department for 20 years now and 10 as an Officer. I hope this makes the cut and the photos are clear. Thanks again guys for an outstanding job you are doing for all our families.*

Supv. Matt Ryan (DVO)



## RETIREE UPDATE

Ret. Supv. Mike D'Angelo, retired since 1990, keeping himself busy even in the winter time. Mike, the Polar Bear Club has nothing on you.  
— JM



## HOLD THE DATE

### MARCH 2010

- 11 UNION MEETING ACTIVE ONLY
- 14 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS
- 17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY
- 20 SPRING BEGINS
- 28 PALM SUNDAY
- 29 PASSOVER BEGINS AT SUNDOWN

## RETIREE FREDDIE MERLINO DISPLAYS HIS NEW "BRONX 9" LICENSE PLATE



Dear Joe,

Please find attached a recent photo of me. My name is Fortunato J. Merlino. I go by Freddie. I was a Supervisor in Bronx 9 when I retired in 1994 with 24 years of service. I am now living down The Jersey Shore. In this recent picture that my son Frank took, I'm wearing my faithful orange "DSNY" shirt with my new license plate from New Jersey, "BRONX 9". If you decide to publish this photo with any captions, please add that I say "hello to my Union brothers from The Bronx. Hope to see you in Atlantic City!"

Thank you,  
Fortunato J. Merlino

### APRIL 2010

- 2 GOOD FRIDAY
- 4 EASTER SUNDAY
- 8 UNION MEETING ACTIVE ONLY
- 22 EARTH DAY



Supv. James Mercer (Q7)

From left: Supv. John Deriso (DVO) and Supv. Matt Ryan (DVO)

From left: GS1 Chris Abbate (PIU), Matt Ryan, San Worker Al Delmar (PIU)

## DIARY OF A DEMENTED SNOW SHOVELER

### December 8, 6:00 PM

It started to snow. The first snow of the season and the wife and I took our cocktails and sat for hours by the window watching the huge soft flakes drift down from heaven. It looked like a Grandma Moses print. So romantic we felt like newlyweds again. I love snow!

### December 9

We woke to a beautiful blanket of crystal white snow covering every inch of the landscape. What a fantastic sight! Can there be a lovelier place in the whole world? Moving here was the best idea I've ever had! Shoveled for the first time in years and felt like a boy again. I did both our driveway and the sidewalks. This afternoon the snowplow came along and covered up the sidewalks and closed in the driveway, so I got to shovel again. What a perfect life!

### December 12

The sun has melted all our lovely snow. Such a disappointment! My neighbor tells me not to worry- we'll definitely have a white Christmas. No snow on Christmas would be awful! Bob says we'll have so much snow by the end of winter that I'll never want to see snow again. I don't think that's possible. Bob is such a nice man, I'm glad he's our neighbor.

### December 14

Snow, lovely snow! 8 inches last night. The temperature dropped to -20. The cold makes everything sparkle so. The wind took my breath away, but I warmed up by shoveling the driveway and sidewalks. This is the life! The snowplow came back this afternoon and buried everything again. I didn't realize I would have to do quite this much shoveling, But I'll certainly get back in shape this way. I wish I wouldn't huff and puff so.

### December 15

20 inches forecast. Sold my van and bought a 4x4 Blazer. I bought snow tires for the wife's car, and 2 extra shovels. Stocked the freezer. The wife wants a wood stove in case the electricity goes out. I think that's silly. We aren't in Alaska, after all.

### December 16

Ice storm this morning. Fell on my butt on

the ice in the driveway putting down salt. Hurt like hell. The wife laughed for an hour, which I think was very cruel.

### December 17

Still way below freezing, roads are too icy to go anywhere. Electricity was off for 5 hours. I had to pile the blankets on to stay warm. Nothing to do but stare at the wife and try not to irritate her. Guess I should've bought a wood stove, but won't admit it to her. God I hate it when she's right. I can't believe I'm freezing to death in my own living room.

### December 20

Electricity is back on, but had another 14 inches of the damn stuff last night. More shoveling! Took all day. The damn snowplow came by twice. Tried to find a neighbor kid to shovel, but they said they're too busy playing hockey. I think they're lying. Called the only hardware store around to see about buying a snow blower and they're out, might have another shipment in March. I think they're lying. Bob says I have to shovel or the city will have it done and bill me. I think he's lying.

### December 22

Bob was right about a white Christmas because 13 more inches of the white stuff fell today, and it's so cold, it probably won't melt until August. Took me 45 minutes to get all dressed up to go out to shovel and then I had to go to the bathroom. By the time I got undressed, went to the bathroom, and dressed again, I was too tired to shovel. Tried to hire Bob who has a plow on his truck for the rest of the winter, but he says he's too busy. I think the jerk is lying.

### December 23

Only 2 inches of snow today, and it warmed up to 0. The wife wanted me to decorate the front of the house this morning. What is she, nuts?!! Why didn't she tell me to do that a month ago? She says she did but I think she's lying.

### December 24

6 inches - Snow packed so hard by snowplow, I broke the shovel. Thought I was having a heart attack. If I ever catch the SOB who drives that snow plow, I'll drag him through the snow by his [toes] and beat

him to death with my broken shovel. I know he hides around the corner and waits for me to finish shoveling and then he comes down the street at 100 miles an hour and throws snow all over where I've just been! Tonight the wife wanted me to sing Christmas carols with her and open our presents, but I was too busy watching for the damn snowplow.

### December 25

Merry \*%#\*&^@# Christmas! 20 more inches of the damn slop tonight — Snowed in. The idea of shoveling makes my blood boil. God, I hate the snow! Then the snowplow driver came by looking for a donation, and I hit him over the head with my shovel. The wife says I have a bad attitude. I think she's a fricking idiot. If I have to watch "It's A Wonderful Life" one more time, I'm going to stuff her into the microwave.

### December 26

Still snowed in, why the hell did I ever move here? It was all HER idea. She's really getting on my nerves.

### December 27

Temperature dropped to -30 and the pipes froze; plumber came after 14 hours of waiting for him, he only charged me \$1,400 to replace all my pipes.

### December 28

Warmed up to above -20, still snowed in and the WITCH is driving me crazy!!!

### December 29

10 more inches, Bob says I have to shovel the roof or it could cave in. That's the silliest thing I ever heard. How dumb does he think I am?

### December 30

Roof caved in. I beat up the snow plow driver, and now he is suing me for a million dollars for the beating I gave him. The wife went home to her mother. Nine more inches predicted.

### December 31

I set fire to what's left of the house. No more shoveling.

### January 8

Feel so good. I just love those little white pills they keep giving me. Why am I tied to the bed?



Secretary-Treasurer

# FERBER

# 7

## ATTENTION ALL NEWLY RETIRED OFFICERS & THOSE SOON-TO-BE RETIRED

When you become newly retired, there are several reasons you have to keep the Department of Sanitation, the New York City Employee Retirement System, and the Fund Office (us) up to date on your mailing address. The Department needs your current address because there may be retro monies due, holiday money due, and W-2 forms you need to receive. The Department has a DS 1662 form which should be used to update your change of address. When you go to 346 Broadway be certain to request the form and to keep on hand. It is especially important if you are planning on relocating in the near future.

The DS1662 form gets mailed to Department of Sanitation Human Resources, 346 Broadway, New York NY 10013 RM 1007 to the attention of David Feinman.

## HOLD THE DATE

### MAY 2010

- 9 MOTHER'S DAY
- 13 UNION MEETING ACTIVE ONLY
- 14 NYCDS RETIREE'S DINNER DANCE
- 15 ARMED FORCES DAY
- 19 SHAVUOT BEGINS AT SUNDOWN
- 31 MEMORIAL DAY

### JUNE 2010

- 6 13TH ANNUAL HANLEY RUN
- 10 UNION MEETING ACTIVE ONLY
- 14 FLAG DAY
- 20 FATHER'S DAY
- 21 SUMMER BEGINS

## IN SHORT

### WTC DISABILITY LAW FILING DEADLINE

The World Trade Center Disability Law creates a presumptive eligibility for accident disability Retirement for certain qualifying conditions if such disability occurred as a result of participation in the WTC Rescue, Recovery, or Clean-up operations from September 11, 2001 – September 12, 2002. To preserve the right to the WTC presumption, a member **MUST FILE** a "Notice of Participation." The Notice is not an application for disability Retirement benefits; rather it is a necessary prerequisite for eligibility under the law. Chapter 489 of the Laws of 2008 extends the **deadline to file a "Notice of Participation" to September 11, 2010.** File now if you haven't already done so.

### LOOKING FOR WORK PHOTOS

If you took any on-the-job photos from the New Year's Eve cleanup or the most recent snow storm, please e-mail them (in jpeg or tiff formats) to the Union office for publication in our newsletter. If you can zip them before you e-mail them, that's even better. We are looking to start a photo section of members on the job, but please guys, only send us the "clean" and "usable" photos. Be sure to send us information to publish with the photo, such as the names of the guys in the photo, when and where it was taken and of course, who took it. Be sure to include your name and a phone number where we can reach you for more information. We need high resolution photos for printing.

### MANHATTAN BORO OFFICERS RETIREMENT PARTY:

Come join the Manhattan Officers celebrate their recently retired (23) brothers (2008 – current).

Date: April 16, 2010

Time: 5 p.m.-9 p.m.

Location: Waterfront Crab House, 2-03 Borden Avenue, Long Island City, NY 11101.

(718) 729-4862

Cost: \$75 per person

Please Contact:

Artie Catenacci: (Local 444) (718) 837-9832

Bob Casanovas: (Manh BA) (347) 351-1250

Nicky Morrone: (Manh BD) (917) 359-2460

John Johnston: (Manh BD) (347) 325-3519

If you are attending, please reserve your place before April 1, 2010 with all monies in by then.

# SOA HEADS TO ALBANY FOR UNION LOBBY DAY

Continued from page 3

our state. Senator Martin Golden agreed, saying that these are among the most challenging times since the Great Depression. He said Governor Paterson is so desperate that he has proposed taxing the only thing left in New York that isn't taxed: sodas and anything else that includes corn syrup.

"The two liter bottle of soda that you pay 99 cents for would have a 67 cent tax under the proposed plan.



**From Left:** SOA Recording Secretary Artie Catenacci, President Mannion, and SOA Lobbyist Bing Markee.

The tax would be almost as much as the soda itself," Golden said. "Times are hard. This budget is hard. We will make hard decisions. But they must also be fair.

"Most importantly, we must make sure that the final budget agreement supports those who are on the front lines in providing the services New York State is famous for," Golden said. "You and your members are New York. You are the heart and soul of New York. You are the backbone of New York. That is why we are committed to you. We are committed to making sure you get paid a fair wage for the great work you do."

Mannion, who was joined by SOA lobbyist Bing Markee, said 2010 is going to be a year more than ever when unions need to band together in order to see positive outcomes.



**From Left:** Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, PEC Chair Peter Merinogolo, SOA President Joe Mannion.

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Joseph Castagno  
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Glenn Ferber  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Arthur Catenacci  
Rec. Secretary



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