



LOCAL 444 SEIU
SANITATION OFFICERS ASSOCIATION



4 Member Heads to
New Orleans



6 Active Members
Prescription Drugs



9 Eyeglass coverage
can be confusing

Vol. 1 Issue 2
Sept./Oct. 2005

IN UNITY

30 Officers and Stewards gathered for the 3rd Annual Stewards Training Convention in early September.



Photos by Mazzocchi

3rd Annual Unity Fund Shop Stewards Convention A Success

More than 50 Officers, Executive Board, Boro Delegates, Shop Stewards and guests convened September 16, 2005 for our 3rd Annual "Unity Fund" Shop Stewards Convention held at the Harrison Conference Center & Hotel in Plainsboro, New Jersey.

The Convention started on Saturday with guest speaker Allen Brawer from Policy Research Group. Allen is our consultant for Collective Bargaining and the consultant to the MLC, Local 831, and Local 246, to mention a few. His many years of experience with NYC Labor negotiations will certainly be tested with this round of bargaining.



Continued on Page 3

In Unity, we can make this the best possible newsletter by keeping it educational, informative, and fun to read.

Shop Stewards Convention

Continued from Page 1

Allen discussed in detail the current contracts that were negotiated or arbitrated. He referenced the DC 37, Local 237, Local 246, The Doctors Council and the PBA Award and let our delegates know how patterns are set and the challenges to other Unions that follow. Allen also proposed ideas and challenges to our Delegates. He challenged us all to come up with ideas for our own upcoming negotiations.

Our second speaker was Mark S. Soroka from the law firm Taubman Kimelman & Soroka. Mark has been the Union's and Fund's attorney for many years, and will be our attorney for the upcoming negotiations. Mark and Joe Castagno have been working hand in hand on all of our ongoing grievances and we are confident that we will prevail.

Mark went over in detail each of our grievances and improper practices against the Department. He also explained procedures of negotiations, mediation and arbitration. Both Allen and Mark ignited several discussions amongst the Delegates.

On Sunday, Delegates met again to discuss the upcoming negotiations and set up Outer Boro meetings to bring our members up to speed. We want our members to be well informed. An educated member will suppress all of the false rumors that are out there.

We discussed future Convention sites and how to get more Shop Stewards involved and qualified to attend. Several rules were reviewed. We talked about some upcoming events and how they affect our rules.

Frank discussed a pension issue that can have unfavorable impacts on our members if they do not follow through. I'm referring to the 521 Form from NYCERS. Frank has written about it in this issue on page 4.

This Convention is set up as a learning event and we did spend many hours being educated by our speakers and from each other during our discussions. We also had time to enjoy each others company and share some personal moments with each other. I believe all left with a wider understanding of what's going on and is ready and willing to spread that knowledge with their fellow brothers and sisters in the field. "In Unity" there is knowledge and strength.



IN UNITY

Shop Stewards

Manhattan

M1.....	Lawrence Bilicki
M2.....	Joseph Rodriguez
M3.....	Nicholas Morrone
M4.....	John Johnston
M5.....	Jose Zacaraz
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.....	Arthur Aloe
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.....	Frank LaPera

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
FK.....	Mike Ponsiglione
BWD Export.....	George Nieves

A Brief NOTE

RETIREES & MEDICARE PART B REIMBURSE- MENT

— The City mailed out Medicare Part B reimbursements in the beginning of August. You should have received this already if you qualify. If you have not, call NYC Employee Benefits at (212) 513-0470. For more info refer to our web site www.Local444SEIU.com

ATTENTION RETIREES

— By now you should have received reimbursement for the 2004 High Option Rider — up to \$700 for those up to age 64 and \$800 for ages 65 and older. To receive this reimbursement from the Retiree Welfare Fund, send copies of your pension quarterly statements or pension stubs indicating payment for the High Option Rider. Be sure to include your name, address and social security number. Mail your quarterly statements/pension stubs to:

A.S.O., P.O. Box 9005,
Lynbrook, NY 11563,
Attn: High Rider
Reimbursement

If you are not certain that you received this reimbursement call (516) 396-5525 or (800) 537-1238. If you cannot locate your stubs or quarterly statements call NYCERS at (347) 643-3000 and ask for a 2004 print out. As with all other claims, no claim will be honored if it is older than one year. Do not confuse this reimbursement with your Medicare Part B reimbursement.

Message From 1st Vice President MAZZOCCHI



Anyone thinking of retiring should learn about the Retirement System and all it has to offer. In preparing for retirement, there are many things to consider and decisions to make, such as your salary and a health insurance plan that will cover you during this time. One reason the latter is so important is because if you plan to relocate, the health insurance plan you choose will have to cover you at your new address.

Preparing for the future means knowing what's in store, anticipating the unknown and being able to handle everything as it happens.

Another issue that should not be overlooked is activating your transitional option regarding death benefits via the 521 form. The 521 is available to all members in Tiers II, III and IV. By completing this form, your beneficiary will be protected if you die during this transitional period. The transitional period is from your Close of Business date (COB) until you receive your first full pension check.

In case you die during this period, your beneficiary will receive the pension based on which of the following two options you selected:

◆ **10-Year Certain** — Upon your death, the 10-Year Certain will obligate the Pension System to make a total payout of 10 years from your COB. It will combine the amount of time you collected a pension, subtract this from the 10-year maximum, and the remaining time is what your beneficiary will receive.

◆ **100% Joint and Survivor** — The designated beneficiary will receive 100% of your retirement allowance upon your death for the rest of his or her life.

The 521 form is a self-effectuating document, meaning that if you don't fill out this form and you die before you receive your first full pension check, then your pension is terminated. Remember this 521 form, which is completed and given to NYCERS before retirement, is only temporary. If you changed your option selection any time after completing the 521, (remember your pension options are selected after you retire) and you die, your new selection will be used to determine how and to whom your death benefit will be paid.

You will receive your 521 when you have your appointment with the Department of Sanitation Employee Benefits, 346 Broadway. The very next step is a trip to NYCERS (your Pension Bureau) where everything will be submitted. The 521 form can be accessed at the NYCERS website. You can click on their link at our own website — www.local444seiu.com

All members of Tiers II, III, and IV can file with NYCERS up to 90 days prior to the effective date of retirement (COB). If you have any questions or topics you would like covered do not hesitate to call or e-mail me at nycsoa@yahoo.com

Supv. Abbate Volunteers to Help Flood-Ravaged New Orleans

Television coverage of Hurricane Katrina's wrath on New Orleans and Mississippi sparked many across the country into action. Thousands donated money and supplies, and others gave of their time.

Seeing homes destroyed by the flooding and families whose lives were forever altered, one of our very own saw all the unfortunate circumstances and wanted to do his part. Brother Sanitation Supv. Christopher Abbate jumped on the bandwagon of volunteers heading to the Gulf Coast. As of this newsletter's printing, he is volunteering with the Red Cross for about two weeks.

Supv. Abbate is not only volunteering his sweat and effort, but using his vacation time to do so. The officers and members of Local 444 give our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Supervisor Christopher Abbate for his unselfish efforts.





Sanitation Officers Association

Security Benefits Fund



JOSEPH MANNION
Chairman



GLENN FERBER
Trustee

FRANK MAZZOCCHI
Trustee

GENNARO SAPORITO
Trustee

JOSEPH CASTAGNO
Trustee

MEMBERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT

2004

LOCAL 444 SANITATION OFFICERS SECURITY BENEFITS FUND

This is a summary of the annual report for the Sanitation Officers Security Benefits Fund (EIN # 13-6181431) for the plan year ending December 31, 2004. The annual report has been filed with the Internal Revenue Service as required under the Employee Retirement Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The value of the plan assets, after subtracting liabilities of the plan was \$1,427,468 as of December 31, 2004, compared to \$1,184,996 of January 1, 2004. During the plan year the plan experienced an increase in its net assets of \$242,472. This increase included unrealized appreciation or depreciation in the value of plan assets: that is, the difference between the value of the plan's assets at the end of the year and the price that the plan originally paid for those assets.

The plan had total income of \$1,910,439 including employer contributions of \$1,874,313, COBRA contributions of \$12,582, gain on the sale of investment of \$6,502, loss on market value decrease on investments of (\$6,801), and earnings from interest and dividends from investments of \$23,843.

Benefits under the plan are provided by this Fund. Plan expenses were \$1,667,967. These expenses included \$87,972 in administrative expenses and \$1,579,995 in benefits paid to participants and beneficiaries. A total of 1,133 persons were participants in or beneficiaries of the plan at the end of the plan year, and all of these persons have earned the right to receive benefits. All benefits are paid directly by the Fund. There are no insurance contracts for any benefits.



Sanitation Officers Association

Retirees Welfare Fund



JOSEPH MANNION
Chairman



GLENN FERBER
Trustee

FRANK MAZZOCCHI
Trustee

GENNARO SAPORITO
Trustee

JOSEPH CASTAGNO
Trustee

MEMBERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT

2004

LOCAL 444 SANITATION OFFICERS RETIREES WELFARE FUND

This is a summary of the annual report for the Sanitation Officers Retirees Welfare Fund (EIN # 13-2854090) for the plan year ending December 31, 2004. The annual report has been filed with the Internal Revenue Service as required under the Employee Retirement Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The value of the plan assets, after subtracting liabilities of the plan was \$8,059,415 as of December 31, 2004, compared to \$7,690,394 as of January 1, 2004. During the plan year the plan experienced an increase in its net assets of \$369,021. This increase included unrealized appreciation or depreciation in the value of plan assets: that is, the difference between the value of the plan's assets at the end of the year and the price that the plan originally paid for those assets.

The plan had total income of \$3,574,625, including employer contributions of \$3,299,037, COBRA contributions of \$23,140, gain on the sale of investment of \$5,374, gain on market value increase of investments of \$4,307, earnings from interest and dividends from investments of \$235,583, and reimbursed expenses of \$7,184.

Benefits under the plan are provided by this Fund. Plan expenses were \$3,205,604. These expenses included \$185,861 in administrative expenses and \$3,019,743 in benefits paid to participants and beneficiaries. A total of 2,463 persons were participants in or beneficiaries of the plan at the end of the plan year, and all of these persons have earned the right to receive benefits. All benefits are paid directly by the Fund. There are no insurance contracts for any benefits.

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A Brief NOTE

AUTHOR, AUTHOR — SUPV. ANTHONY J. CARDIERI, assigned to SI 2, had his first novel published. The title is "Our Own Worst Enemy." It's a Sci-Fi novel that tells of future humans declaring war on present day people. For more information go to: <http://www.ourownworstenemy.net/>. Good luck Anthony!

SOA SCHOLARSHIPS — Local 444 Sanitation Officers Association is offering two \$1,000 scholarships to eligible dependents of active union members. 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.

SOA NEEDS YOUR HELP — As stated in the President's message, there were problems with the delivery of the Inaugural Issue of the "In UNITY" newsletter. This is our second issue. If you did not receive the first issue, please contact the Union Hall at (718-837-9832) or e-mail (NYC-SOA@Yahoo.com). We need to know your name, address including zip code, and if you are Active or Retired. If you would like a copy of any of our newsletters, you can download them from our web site.

A Brief NOTE

ACTIVE BURIAL BENEFIT IMPROVEMENT

— Effective September 1, 2005, we have improved your burial benefit from a strict taxable benefit, to a tax free life insurance policy. We have retained Aetna Insurance to provide a \$10,000 benefit for your designated beneficiary: a \$2,000 burial benefit for your eligible spouse/domestic partner and a \$1,000 benefit for your eligible dependent children. All death benefits are tax free.

RETIREE BURIAL BENEFIT IMPROVEMENT

— Effective September 1, 2005, we have improved your burial benefit from a decreasing taxable burial benefit, to a tax free life insurance policy. Your designated beneficiary is now entitled to a fixed \$7,500 tax free benefit regardless of age! Please have your beneficiary notify the fund office as soon as possible to report a death. We will be honored to inform that person of what needs to be done (continuation of coverage, other monies forthcoming).

Now would be a good time to check your beneficiaries to see that they are as you desire. You can change your beneficiaries for the above mentioned by filling out a new card with the Fund Office. All you have to do is give a call to request new beneficiary cards. You can use our website with your password to verify your beneficiary is correct.

Message From Secretary-Treasurer FERBER



Active Members Prescription Drug Program

This is a reminder of the changes that have occurred with your prescription drug program effective July 1, 2005, and the effects these changes have on you. The plan is very complicated, with different co-pays for formulary, non-formulary and generic medications. When dealing with Express Scripts, be mindful that it is a huge corporation that services many different clients — health benefit plans, unions and non-profit organizations.

There is a good chance that you have three different drug prescription plans for which Express Scripts is the pharmacy benefit manager. They are GHI (GH3), pICa (APN), and Local 444 (L44a).

Let me tell you what prescriptions are covered under each plan.

Diabetic medication is covered by your base medical coverage through a New York State mandate. That means that if you have GHI, you will use your GHI coverage (GH3) for that medication.

The PICA plan, which turned to IC, covers injectable and chemotherapy drugs. This group identifier is APN.

Last but not least is the union's prescription benefit coverage. The group identifier is L44a. This covers just about all other prescriptions.

To avoid confusion when speaking to Express Scripts, you must identify which plan you are referring to. Do this by using the appropriate group identifiers in parenthesis above. If you and your dependents get frustrated talking to Express Scripts, feel free to give me a call. I understand your frustration and confusion about the plan. It's complicated, but together we'll be able to smooth out any confusion. Working through all the complications with the plan saves you and the fund money.

Retiree Reimbursement for High Option Rider

It has come to the attention of the Trustees that many retirees have not sent in their 2004 pension stubs or direct deposit statements. In order to receive your reimbursement for the High Option Rider, you must do so. If you are missing your 2004 stubs, call NYCERS at (347) 643-3000 to obtain a printout and mail them to our Administrator:

ASO
PO Box 9005
Lynbrook, NY 11563-9005
Attn: Rider Reimbursement

If you haven't taken care of this business, do it now! If you have sent in your documentation for reimbursement and have not received reimbursement, direct your inquiries to our Administrator ASO at (800) 537-1238 or (516) 396-5525.



Sanitation Officers Association
Compensation Accrual Fund



JOSEPH MANNION
Chairman



GLENN FERBER
Trustee

FRANK MAZZOCCHI
Trustee

GENNARO SAPORITO
Trustee

JOSEPH CASTAGNO
Trustee

MEMBERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT

2004

LOCAL 444 SANITATION OFFICERS COMPENSATION ACCRUAL FUND

This is a summary of the annual report for the Sanitation Officers Compensation Accrual Fund (EIN # 13-6291920) for the plan year ending December 31, 2004. The annual report has been filed with the Internal Revenue Service as required under the Employee Retirement Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The value of the plan assets, after subtracting liabilities of the plan was \$25,701,999 as of December 31, 2004, compared to \$22,923,349 as of January 1, 2004. During the plan year, the plan experienced an increase in its net assets of \$2,778,650. This increase included unrealized appreciation or depreciation in the value of plan assets; that is, the difference between the value of the plan's assets at the end of the year and the price that the plan originally paid for those assets.

The plan had a total income of \$5,304,463 including employer contributions of \$2,751,184, transfer of contributions from Local 831 of \$1,540,087, gain on the sale of investment of \$318,809, loss on market value decrease in investments of (\$60,622), and earnings from interest and dividends from investments of \$755,005.

Benefits under the plan are provided by this Fund. Plan expenses were \$2,525,813. These expenses included \$154,080 in administrative expenses and \$2,371,733 in benefits paid to participants and beneficiaries. A total of 1,133 persons were participants in or beneficiaries of the plan at the end of the plan year, and all of these persons have earned the right to receive benefits. All benefits are paid directly by the Fund. There are no insurance contracts for any benefits.

YOUR RIGHTS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

You have the right to receive a copy of the full annual reports, or any part thereof, on request. The items listed below are included in that part:

1. An accountant's report
2. Assets held for investment
3. Transactions in excess of 3% of plan assets

To obtain a copy of the full annual report or any part thereof, write or call the office of Local 444 Sanitation Officers Association, which is a plan administrator, 8510 Bay 16th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11214, (718) 837-9832. The charge to cover copying cost will be \$5.00 for the full annual report, or \$.35 per page for any part thereof.

You also have the right to receive from the plan administrator, on request and at no charge, a statement of the assets and liabilities of the plan and accompanying notes, or statement of income and expenses of the plan and accompanying notes, or both. If you request a copy of the full annual report from the administrator, these two statements and accompanying notes will be included as part of that report. The charge to cover copying costs given above does not include a charge for the copying of these portions of the report because these portions are furnished without charge.

You also have the legally protected right to examine the annual report at the main office of the plan, 8510 Bay 16th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11214, at any other location where the report is available for examination, and at the U.S. Department of Labor in Washington D.C. or to obtain a copy from the U.S. Department of Labor upon payment of copying costs. Request to the Department should be addressed to: Public Disclosure Room, N4677, Pension and Welfare Benefits Programs, Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.S., Washington, D.C. 20216.

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A Brief NOTE

COLLEGE LETTERS PAST DUE —

Active and Retired members with dependents ages 19 to 23 who did not send in proof of their children's full-time registration at an accredited educational institute by the Sept. 1 deadline, please be aware that welfare benefit, dental and prescription coverage have been terminated. The only way to reinstate coverage is for the letter to be on file with the Fund Office. The letter can be mailed or faxed to the Fund office at (718) 837-9347.

SOFTBALL WINNER —

QW and QE Officers took to the field recently for a friendly, but competitive, game of softball. After a long and tension-filled battle, QW emerged the winner with a score of 13-12. Stay tuned to the next issue of "In UNITY" for photos.

Member LETTERS

Member E-MAILS

E-MAIL FROM:

LARRY ROMANO (SUPV. DVO),
BOCA RATON, FLORIDA

Can't tell you how pleased I was when I received the new Union newsletter..."In Unity." I have been a retired Supervisor almost 20 years now and still feel the need to stay informed. I read the Inaugural Issue with great interest and found it to be of exceptional quality. Of course most of my co-workers are also retired as I am but it still gives me satisfaction to read about the new wave of men (and women) that comprise Local 444. Congratulations on a great Inaugural Issue...I wish you many years of success!!!

E-mail from:

WILLIE HAMM, Rec. Secretary
Retirees & Associates of
West Florida

I read it cover to cover. Very interesting. Only thing is, it's all new faces & names. I knew only two names. One was Brian Light. If you ever speak to him mention my name. See if he remembers me. I was a Garage Steward for 831 when he was a San Man assigned to Qns 2. The other is Roy Brandquist in the OAU. Tell Frank the pictures are great.

E-mail from:

GENE & BARBARA CASSARA

We just received the inaugural issue of In UNITY and we love it. The articles are great and informative. This is so 21st Century! Great job to all and to Frank for all the great pictures. We never knew about your hidden talents! Keep up the good work!

Dear Mr. Mannion,

My children and I would like to thank you for your very moving tribute to my husband June 18, 2005, and the wonderful article in your new "In Unity" newsletter. Danny served the City proudly as a sanitation officer. I know that he is looking down on us with pride.

It is ironic how life brings us in a full circle back to where we began. Danny was born at 58 East 120th Street, a few blocks from where he died and where his name will be remembered forever.

Danny was my first and only love, and I know I will never get over his death; but the Diaz family, the Sanitation Officers Union, and many of the wonderful people with whom he worked with over the many years he spent with the department have truly become part of our extended family since March 4, 2004.

I would be grateful if you keep me on your newsletter mailing list. I will consider it an honor to remain a part of the Sanitation Officers family. God bless you!

Sincerely,

Frances Sanchez

August 5, 2005

Dear President Mannion:

I spoke earlier today with Dom Ferrucci. I am happy we have him. I am writing today to tell you how much I enjoyed reading the "In UNITY" magazine. i would like to start off with thanking everyone for the benefits I enjoy. I know if it weren't for the UNION, we would have nothing. A lot of members think they are entitled to this and that. But, that isn't the case and they should be informed of this. Just my medications would break the average person ... if it weren't for the UNION. I don't want to anger any retirees by saying maybe we, the retirees, can make a voluntary donation two times a year. Maybe \$10 every six months. This will help offset costs and show those on the job we want to help secure their future as well as our own.

To those who read this and think this guy should get a life, I assure you I have a very active life, even with emphysema and heart disease. I feel we should never be too busy to take the time and say thank you to those who are looking out for us. I wish you all the very best and again, thank you for everything you have provided over the years.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sal LaFonte

Dear President Mannion:

I was extremely pleased to receive a copy of the first issue of the "In UNITY" newsletter mailed to me by your office.

In addition to receiving this newsletter I was also heartily warmed by the admiration you have given Supv. Daniel Sanchez, who, while overlooking his duties died from a heart attack. I greatly feel the sorrow his family, relatives, fellow Sanitationmen and all who had come to know and admire him...

Re: your information indicating that Daniel Sanchez was a Section Supervisor in M11 was "shocking" to me since Section #M11 is located on 123rd St. between Third Ave. and Lexington Ave. — is the SAME Section I was assigned to when I first joined the Sanitation Dept of NYC in 1952. I spent approx. 15 years in that Section under the Supervision of Foremen Sal Patricola & Anthoy Cinque. (Remember any of those Officers?) Then, I started to "climb" the ladder UP — 1st Asst. Foreman, then Foreman, and finally DISTRICT SUPT. in the BRONX — and retiring as a Dist. Supt. in 1981.

I lived in the North East Bronx and most of my service was in the BRONX. I thoroughly enjoyed working, as an officer and it gave me a proudness which is hard to explain. Of course, the Sanitation Officers Assoc. was always there when needed so for all the years I spent with the ASSOCIATION I now once more say thanks to you President Mannion and all your associates.

Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

FRANK J. LOPIANO

P.S. — If there are any Sanit men you know of who live here in Arizona, please tell them to CALL ME.

Clearing Up the Confusion about Optical Benefits

By Joseph Mannion
Local 444 President

While the glasses you get through our Union's optical providers may help you see more clearly, they won't help you figure out some of the confusion arising lately as members take advantage of what the plan offers.

Though there are several Providers on our panel, General Vision Services (GVS) is the one with the best benefits for our members. Often referred to as "The Optical Company with the Union Label," GVS offers the best value on frames — any style, color and size up to a retail value of \$150 unless indicated otherwise. To utilize the optical benefits, it would be best to visit one of the GVS flagship stores.

Lately there have been a few issues arising regarding the Optical Providers, who contract with private optical businesses to be on their panel. When this is done, the optical businesses are obligated to honor whatever agreement the Provider has set up with our Union. However, there seems to be a loop hole.

If you look at the locations of the Providers' participating businesses, you might see the same address on varying Provider's literature with different names of doctors or businesses themselves. As far as I'm concerned, this is not ethical and can sometimes even be illegal, depending on the contract.

We have also encountered some optical businesses leaving one Provider for another, with little or no time for us to communicate this information to our members. We are currently trying to remedy this situation.

That's why I'm informing you now of what to watch out for and what steps you should take to best avoid any problems. First of all, I recommend you call the Provider's 800 telephone number, or better yet use their web sites, to search for one of their locations nearest you. Remember, GVS is our "Preferred Provider."

When you call one of the Provider's optical locations, ask if they are still a GVS affiliate, and if they accept the Sanitation Officers — GVS Plan. Once at an optical office, if you only want to receive what is offered in our benefit plan, state so. There should be little or no cost to you if you stay within the parameters of our benefit plan. If you're not sure about something, ask. Once you start going out of the plan's parameters, the expense to you can go up quite a bit.

Another thing to remember is that our Union's home base is in New York. Even though most of us have a right to live somewhat out of this area, we are still a New York-based entity. Unfortunately for our Retirees who live out of state, the optical benefits can vary quite a bit, sometimes due to varying state laws. Keep in mind that our Providers do have networks across the country, but the benefits will probably differ from the benefits in the New York area.

Remember, the value of your benefits is \$80 for Active members and \$100 for Retirees.

If you still have questions or are unclear about certain aspects of the optical benefits plan, please call or write the Union office.

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Hold The DATE

October

4-5 Rosh Hashana

6 Membership
Meeting &
Nomination Night

10 Columbus Day

13 Yom Kippur

29 Daylight Savings
Time Ends

Turn Clocks Back One
Hour Saturday Night
Before You Go to Sleep
&

Replace All Smoke and
Carbon Monoxide
Detector Batteries

31 Halloween

November

3 Membership
Meeting

8 Election Day

11 Veteran's Day

24 Thanksgiving Day



About Our MEMBERS

ABOUT THIS COLUMN

All members are encouraged 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

In Memoriam:

Supt. Lawrence "Marcelis" Clark
(Manh. Boro) 7/09/05
Supv. Silvano (Nano) Flegar
(M6) 9/13/05
John Pellegrino (Ret) 4/30/05
Salvatore Palagonia (Ret) 6/18/05
John Bossong (Ret) 7/05/05
Joseph Graziano (Ret) 7/20/05
George Orapello (Ret) 7/29/05
Dominic Cotignola (Ret) 8/12/05
Uneal Brooks (Ret) 8/18/05
Sophia Toscano,
Department Advocate. 8/07/05

In Memoriam Family:

Supv. George Best, BK12 — (Father)
Supv. (Lt.) Charles Diaz, San. Police —
(Grandmother)
Supv. John Aversano, BX3 — (Mother)
Supv. Richard Constantinopoli, QW4 —
(Mother)
Supv. William Newlin, BK2 — (Father)
Supt. Vincent Palazzolla, BK10 —
(Father-in-Law)
Supv. John Corbin, BK16 — (Mother)
Supv. (Lt.) Dios Candelaria, San. Police,
(Father)
Supv. William Kelly, QE13, (Father)

Acting Chief Thomas Zarcone, SI Boro —
(Father)
Deputy Chief Marty Prokup, FIAT —
(Son in Law)

Retiring Members:

Supv. Craig Parker, SI1 (3/07/05)
Supv. Joseph Falcone, BK12 . (7/26/05)
Supv. John Mendelewski, Bk15, (7/30/05)
Supt. Joseph Chabriel, Bronx Boro,
(7/31/05)
Supv. Rocco Siclari, Lot Cleaning,
(7/31/05)
Supv. John Burrafato, Bk6, (8/1/05)
Supt. Peter Franzese, OAU, (8/1/05)
Supv. Alexander Hidaggo, Q9, (8/1/05)
Supv. William Reiman, Q13, (8/1/05)
Supv. Jose Velaquez, Q10, (8/1/05)
Supv. William Webb, Q5, (8/1/05)
Supv. Pasquale Gentilcore, BX Lots,
(8/22/05)
Supv. William Nowlon, SI1, (8/22/05)
Supv. Daniel Antonelli, Bk14, (8/24/05)
Supv. Vincent Fossella, Lots, (8/26/05)

Retiring Members:

Supv. Kevin McCafery, BOO, (8/27/05)
Supv. Richard Kraus, Bk1, (8/28/05)
Supv. Andrew Lunetta, M3, (8/29/05)
Supv. Joseph Caleca, Bk11, (8/30/05)
Supv. William Paine, Q13, (8/31/05)
Supv. Peter Torchio, FK, (8/31/05)
Supv. Edward Canepari, SI2, (9/1/05)
Supv. Philip Gangemi, SI3, (9/1/05)
Supv. Dennis Germano, Q4, (9/1/05)
Supv. Michael Heany, Bx4, (9/1/05)
Supv. Steve Norling, Q3, (9/1/05)
Supv. Corbette Green, BWD Export,
(9/13/05)
Supv. Richard Cusumano, Bk9, (9/29/05)
Supv. Joseph Lynan, Q2, (9/30/05)
Supv. Jamal Rasheed, M10, (9/30/05)

Newborn Children:

Supv. Arthur Catenacci, M8 (Granddaughter)
Supt. Andrew Pugliese, BK15, (Daughter)
Supv. Thomas Prevete, SSLU, (Twin
Daughters)
Supv. Ronald Cohen, IG, (Daughter)
Supv. Vincent Baranello, BX10, (Son)
Supv. Salvatore Ceraulo, BK11, (Daughter)
Supv. Roy King, BX6, (Son)

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

RETIREEES

Keep everyone up to date with happenings in your lives. Special trip ... Anniversary ... Milestone birthday ... birth of a grandchild.

And be sure to include all pertinent information, as well as photos.

Send everything to:

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

Becoming An Eagle Scout

Eagle Scout Joseph Mannion Jr. is congratulated by Congressman Mario Biaggi, his father Joseph Mannion (Local 444 President), Mario Biaggi Jr., and Richard Biaggi.

Eagle Scout Joseph Mannion Jr. takes the Eagle Scout Oath with Scoutmaster Frank Freyvogel.



Hold The DATE

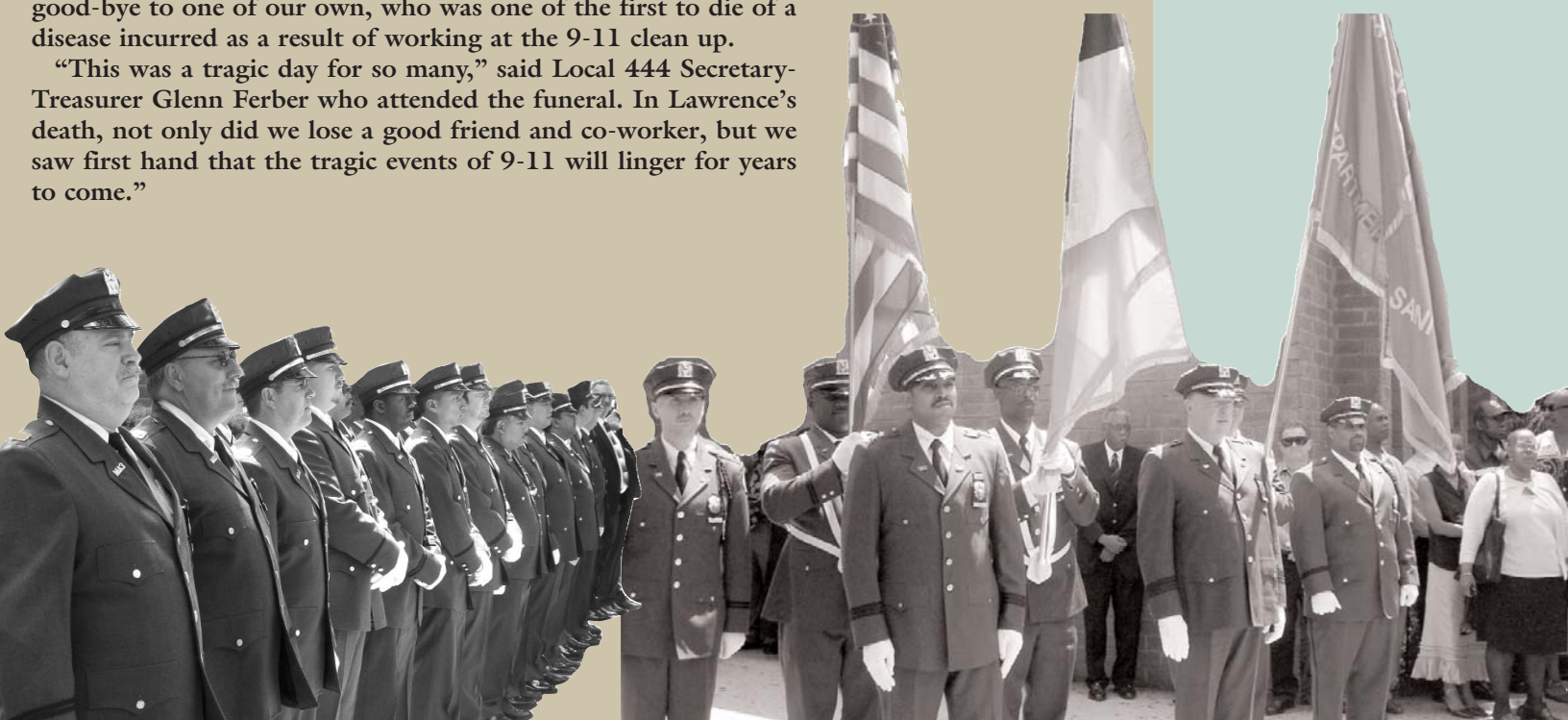
Outer Boro Meetings October

- 7 BKS @ BK11
- 17 QW @ CRS
- 18 BKN @ Boro
- 19 QE @ Winchester

Local 444 Says Good-Bye to Brother Lawrence Marcelis Clark

Lawrence Marcelis Clark lost his battle with lung cancer on July 9, 2005. Local 444 members, friends and family gathered to say good-bye to one of our own, who was one of the first to die of a disease incurred as a result of working at the 9-11 clean up.

"This was a tragic day for so many," said Local 444 Secretary-Treasurer Glenn Ferber who attended the funeral. In Lawrence's death, not only did we lose a good friend and co-worker, but we saw first hand that the tragic events of 9-11 will linger for years to come."



12

It's Been
4 Years
But
We'll
Never
Forget

9-11-01



Joseph Mannion President
Frank Mazzone 1st Vice President
Gennaro Saporito 2nd Vice President
Glenn Ferber Secretary-Treasurer
Joseph Castagno Rec. Secretary

Local 444 SEIU
Sanitation Officers Assoc.
8510 Bay 16th Street
2nd Floor
Brooklyn, NY 11214



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