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A Special Message from Kuba J. Brown on our Contract...

On December 31, our RAB Engineer Agreement will expire. History tells us we can expect a difficult and challenging fight for a new contract. While working hard for the best results at the table, we must also prepare for any contingency. It has been 35 years since Local 94 was forced to strike, and hopefully we will never have to take the action again. But we must and will be ready. Over the next several months we will be taking the necessary steps to ensure our readiness. Even as our negotiating team seeks your input for proposals, we will be seeking leaders and organizing teams to prepare for what is now the unthinkable. You will not be left in the dark. We will keep you updated and informed with special meetings and updates throughout the year.

It is only by standing united and remaining informed will we obtain a contract we can approve.

...and A Special Thank You

Dear Mr. Brown,

My name is William Higgins. I am a member of Local Union #3, IBEW. I am currently working at 125 Broad St. since November 2012 performing Hurricane Sandy related work. I have the pleasure of working with two of your members – Chief Richard Fernandez and Assistant Chief John Cancel. Richie and John are incredible assets to both Local 94 and the building management company Cashman & Wakefield. They always maintain professional attitudes when dealing with building issues, other trades, tenants and especially when I need their assistance – they are always there to help or advise.

Recently one of my co-workers was injured in the building – not only did Richie and John ensure that he was treated and transported to the hospital, they also made a donation to him on behalf of the engineers in the building.

I thought that was pretty amazing!!!

I feel it’s important that people like Richie and John are recognized in our industry for their “looking out” for others; especially in today’s anti-labor environment, where it’s so important that we all stick together.

Fraternally,
William Higgins

I would like to also thank Richie, John and their crew for demonstrating once again, the members of Local 94 know and understand UNION and LEADERSHIP!

President’s Message

After the Winter Winds — A New Administration and Hope for Spring

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

After the long, cold and brutal winter, welcome to the spring edition of our newsletter. I want to begin once again by thanking you – the members — for your dedication and hard work over the past several months.

No matter how bitter the cold, how high the snow was piled, and ferocious the winds you kept your buildings up, running, operational and warm. Your dedication and devotion to your profession is a model for working men and women everywhere.

It is not by accident that Local 94 has a reputation for excellence throughout the commercial building industry and within our brother and sister unions. This winter you have once again not only lived up but exceeded your reputation, you have enhanced it.

Once again you have made us all proud.

There was far more that happened this winter and its impact is sure to last longer than the snows that piled on our streets. January brought us an almost entirely new government in New York City.

They each ran on a progressive agenda and promise of a government that will expand opportunities for the poor, strengthen the middle class, and create a more equitable city. The voters have spoken: Bill de Blasio is now Mayor, Scott Stringer is Comptroller, Letitia James is the Public Advocate; and the new, progressive city council has elected Melissa Mark-Viverito as the new Speaker of the City Council.

The new legislators wasted no time in passing a paid sick-leave bill, pushed for a fully-funded universal pre-kindergarten program; an increase in the minimum wage; and a significant increase in funding for public education.

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Not every piece of legislation passed this session, and every politician has made mistakes. But overall, the new administration has been a victory for the working class.

There is much work to be done. But the winds of change have blown hard and steady. The coming spring will bring new opportunities and hope for a brighter future.

Mayor Bill de Blasio talks with children after reading them a book in a pre-kindergarten class at P.S. 130 after a news conference about his plans for universal pre-kindergarten in New York City.

“As a retailer or restaurant chain, if you’re not at the really high level or the low level that’s a tough place to be,” John Maxwell of PriceWaterhouseCoopers told the Times. “You don’t want to be stuck in the middle.”

I can only wonder what any of those labor leaders and workers who stood up and sacrificed to create America’s great middle class might think of the notion of being stuck?

Unfortunately what follows behind being stuck is falling behind. As a union we must stand up and stand together and build on our great trade union legacy and ensure a future of opportunity for our children and future generations to come.

Kuba J. Brown

Business Agents

Kuba Brown
Business Manager/President
Tom Costello
Assistant Business Manager/Financial Secretary/Business Representative of Uptown Manhattan, Queens, and the Bronx
Tom Hart
Recording Corresponding Secretary, Business Representative of Midtown Manhattan, Health & Safety Officer
John Kramer
Treasurer/Business Representative of Downtown Manhattan and Brooklyn
Mike Gadaleta
Auditor/Business Representative of Hotels, Clubs and Commercial Residential properties of New York City
Kelly Drummond
Trustee/Business Representative of Hotels, Clubs and Commercial Residential properties of New York City
Ray Macco
Auditor/Business Representative of New York City Public Schools located in Brooklyn and Queens
Jack Redden
Guard/Business Representative of New York City Public Schools located in Manhattan, Bronx, and Staten Island

Executive Board

Kuba J. Brown
Business Manager & President
Thomas Costello
Vice President
Thomas M. Hart
Recording Secretary
Bob Zimmer
Financial Secretary
John Kramer
Treasurer
Eddie Burke
Conductor
Jack Redden
Trustee
John Cancel, Kelly Drummond
Gerard Streicher
Vice Presidents
Anthony Fasulo, Michael Gadaleta
Ray Macco
Auditors

By design most of these programs are created to lift the poor. But where are we lifting moderate income housing, or affordable housing? An increase in the minimum wage; and a significant increase in funding for public education.

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High-end shoppers need no help in finding the building on the northeast corner of Madison Avenue and East 60th Street. As the home of Donna Karen’s DKNY flagship store, Schutz Shoes and Kara Rose the corner is a fashionista’s paradise. The 25-story 230,922 square-foot tower is also home to the Lower Corporation and Esteé Lauder. It is the responsibility of Chief Engineer David Rodriguez, Engineer Mitch Capuano and Helper Luis De la Cruz, to ensure and provide owners, tenants and visitors the highest standards of comfort and service.

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Built in 1952 the glass and steel tower remains one of Colliers International trophy towers thanks to nearly a decade of ongoing upgrades and improvements. Improvements include new over clad curtain wall, newly renovated lobby, the installment of plate exchanger – and a wall pump.

No matter what the challenge, Chief Rodriguez, Capuano and De la Cruz have been up to the task, and take great pride in each new improvement. “To think that we didn’t have a BMS when I started here three years ago, it’s been pretty exciting,” said Rodriguez.

Property Manager Peter Zientara is pleased with what has happened as well. “Thanks to this crew we did almost everything, replacing pools and the Museum, which opens May 21. “We do everything from the pump room to the snow removal and landscaping,” said Chief Engineer Anthony LoCasto. “This is a special place for everyone. No matter what they ask of us we will do it.”

And LoCasto’s Local 94 team: Assistant Chief Jimmy Trantel, Engineers Anthony Laino, Thomas Carney, James Osborne, Mike Cortaro, Terry Harris, Sean Walsh, Steve Fichter, Edward Gamble, Lucirene Boneau, John Cassisi, Jackson Mercedes, Ricky D’silva, Gustavo Merizalde, Michael Morelli, Elvin Turiocos, Carl Rodgers, Joe Gacevic, Benito Rodrigues, and Ryan Malone, all share his perspective.

When LoCasto was putting together his initial team Trantel was at the World Financial Center when the planes struck, jumped at the chance to join LoCasto, Kalef DeKastrozza (who has since left due to illness), Terry Harris, Anthony Laino, and James Osborne, that first week to start up the operation prior to the opening of the Museum in 2011. “I had a nice job across the street,” explained Trantel. “You know, sometimes you feel as if you can never do enough. To have an opportunity to work here, and know we were responsible for opening and the operations of this site is special and gratifying,” added Trantel.

Now, with the 9/11 Memorial Museum opening May 21, those senses are heightened. “I think the thing that will strike most people is the Museum is not just about what happened on 911 or the first bomb in 1993. It is also about how the rebuild and the re-birth. It’s about our response and how we came out of it,” said Trantel. Perhaps it was LoCasto who said it best: “I’ve been with Local 94 for more than 25 years. This is the greatest thing I have ever done, and I believe I will ever do.”

No one need be reminded of the losses our union, our city, our country, and the world endured the morning of September 11, 2001. Local 94 will always remember and honor the memories of Vito Joseph DeLeo, John Michael Griffin, Charles W. Magee and David J. Williams our own brother engineers who we lost on that infamous day. Those 16 World Trade Center victims, where the Twin Towers stood are considered sacred ground.

Today, the National September 11 Memorial and Museum occupy half of those acres. The Memorial’s design consists of two 30-foot waterfalls which cascade into a void of the two separate pools that sit within the exact footprint of the north and south World Trade Center Towers. Inscribed in bronze parapets around the edges of each pool are the names of the all the nearly 3,000 known victims of 2001 and 1993 attacks.

Nearly 500,000 gallons of water flows through those pools; each requires 16 pumps which operate below. There are eight pumps for each waterfall, along with four filtration circulation pumps; two trough circulation pumps; a lower void circulation pump – all equipped with a steam heat exchanger, UV light reactor and filter system – and a wall pump.

Running horizontally beneath the brass name plates is a glycol system heated with two pumps, a steam shell and tube heat exchanger, in winter to keep frost from developing on the bronze, and cooler with a plate heat exchanger for summer operation, to keep the bronze cool to the touch.

It is the honor and responsibility of Local 94 engineers and mechanics to operate and maintain the reflecting pools and the Museum, which opens May 21. “We do everything from the pump room to the snow removal and landscaping,” said Chief Engineer Anthony LoCasto. “This is a special place for everyone. No matter what they ask of us we will do it.”

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**NYS WTC Benefit Re-Opened for Eligible WTC Workers**

This information was first published in the NYS Senate WTC Health Watch bulletin. Eligibility reopened for those who did not file or were not included before the previous deadline.

In late November 2013, Governor Cuomo signed legislation reopening the registry for those eligible for Workers Compensation, and those eligible for disability pensions under certain pension systems, if they worked or performed certain volunteer functions at or near Ground Zero or related sites following the 9/11 attacks.

This “registry” — previously known as the WTC-12 for Workers’ Comp, or the Notice of Participation-WTC for certain pension systems — essentially preserves your ability to file a claim in the future should certain illnesses related to 9/11 appear later in life. Additionally, the law now allows for “verified” members of certain eligible pension systems who otherwise qualified and subsequently left service to now submit to the registry as well.

The new open period for filing (if you qualify) extends through September 11, 2014. The WTC-12 can be found at www.wcb.ny.gov.

If you previously registered with Workers’ Compensation or your pension system, if you have already filed, or you are eligible to do so now, we recommend you contact your pension system or the NYS Workers’ Compensation Board.

The link to this new law can be found at: http://assembly.state.ny.us. On the left line, many others are not, and may still be eligible.

The Victim Compensation Fund provides monetary compensation for economic loss suffered by eligible WTC Responders and survivors who became ill as a result of their 9/11 exposure. Although some Responders were bound by an October 3, 2013, deadline, many others are not and may still be eligible.

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**CERTAIN CANCERS NOW COVERED THROUGH WTC HEALTH PROGRAM**

With certain cancers now covered through the WTC Health Program, Dr. Michael Crane, Medical Director of WTC Clinical Center for Excellence, urges all Responders to discuss any cancer diagnosis with our physicians to determine if your condition may be eligible for coverage with the Program. If you have any records, such as lab and biopsy reports or other diagnostic and treatment records, please bring them with you to your next visit.

A cancer diagnosis, and the treatment that follows, is likely to be a challenging and stressful time. We are here to help. Even if you are receiving treatment for your cancer from another provider, we may be able to assist you. Your WTC physician also can advise you regarding steps you can take to screen for certain cancers for which you may be at risk.

The reality was the water was so deep, as much as 8-feet deep by Loughran’s estimate that the flooding had rendered the three large oil tanks drained and cleaned and replaced with number 2. “We put in a small 2.5 hp pump and it’s been working great,” he said. With the students and faculty temporarily relocated to Lafayette High School, it was Loughran, a 20-year veteran in the school, who spear-headed the restoration and oversaw the clean-up and repair.

As far as we were concerned we wanted to get everyone back in the building as soon as possible. Working with cleaner Mike Rodriguez and some outside cleanup crews, the team worked around the clock to pump out the water, set-up a system to bring heat in from the portable boiler, and ensure a safe clean environment.

Future plans call for new energy efficient and flood prevention design and construction improvements. In the meantime, the kids are back in school and Loughran will continue to make sure they stay there.

**Despite Sandy, Local 94 Fireman Finds Way to Keep Students in Class**

Located just behind Lincoln High School in Coney Island, BS 303 Herbert S. Eisenberg felt the full wrath of Super Storm Sandy. The trailer that houses the temporary oil boiler outside the school’s main entrance stands as a constant reminder of Sandy’s visit.

While the building suffered little exterior damage, flood waters left in her wake wreaked havoc on the room. “It was like being in the ‘Poseidon Adventure,’” exclaimed Artie Loughran as he described his return to the school after the storm.

“There was no power, no lights; water was still flowing in from the louvers; debris was floating everywhere, and the water was so deep we couldn’t go swimming!”

It was great that there was plenty of oil, but without the furnaces, the oil was of no use. While the building suffered little exterior damage, the oil tanks or I think they’d have been floating as well,” said Loughran.

With a flooded basement, no electricity, and without the furnaces, the oil was of no use. “As far as we were concerned we wanted to get everyone back in the building as soon as possible.”

“Working with cleaner Mike Rodriguez and some outside cleanup crews, the team worked around the clock to pump out the water, set-up a system to bring heat in from the portable boiler, and ensure a safe clean environment.”

Other issues, like getting the exhaust filters, which carry out the contaminated air, to rotate once the motors were destroyed by the flood: “So now can rotate the filter by hand and I’m still doing it that way today,” said Loughran.

Even with his two full tanks of number 6 diesel they were useless; the temporary boiler ran on number 2. “We were going through 2,400 gallons in days. It was at a point we had to order oil nearly every week,” said Loughran. After first finding a more efficient temporary system, Loughran had the two 7,500 gallon tanks drained and cleaned and replaced with number 2. “We put in a small 2.5 hp pump and it’s been working great,” he said.

“Artie and that crew are phenomenal,” said BS 303 principal Carmen Amador. “They are meticulous, ‘never say no’ guys.”

**NOTE:** This is NOT the same as filing for the WTC Health Program, the Victim Compensation Fund (VCF), or the WTC Health Program.
Mike Gadaleta

An Open Letter to the Uptown Commercial Membership

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Before I introduce myself I want to thank Kuba Brown and Tom Costello for the honor and opportunity to serve as the Local 94 Business Agent for the Uptown Commercial Area.

It is going to take some time for me to get to know you all, we can start the process by telling you about my near 30 year journey from porter to business agent.

It began at the Union vocational centers, when, at age of 19 I became an operating engineer. With the help of John Kramer and Tommy Costello I found a union, a year later I was an Assistant Chief. In addition to my day job I also worked as a part-time teacher at various vocational schools.

My career took a major turn in 1994, when Michael Carney and Kuba Brown offered me the position as Local 94’s assistant training director. One year later I was appointed Training Director.

Over the course of the next two years and with support from the local and the training center staff we were able to expand our programs and reshape the mandatory curriculum. I am especially proud it was our programs and reshape the mandatory training center staff we were able to expand and with support from the local and the FDNY to teach the curriculum. I am especially proud it was our programs and reshape the mandatory training center staff we were able to expand and with support from the local and the FDNY to teach the curriculum.

My goals and objectives are simple: I hope to visit every uptown building by the end of the year; work with union members to enhance the industry; create jobs for local 94; and assist with upcoming contract negotiations.

I am also going to need your help.

To the Uptown Chiefs I have a simple request: when a brother or sister falls let’s help him or her up. Call me. You have my cell phone number. I am here to work with you and management to correct problems, not create them.

Uptown Engineers, all we ask of you is to continue to take pride and ownership in your job. The more you know the better of we all are. You are the backbone of this local. Share your knowledge.

Uptown Helpers, you have been given a great opportunity, know and learn your building, don’t be afraid to ask questions. You are our future.

Who knows where you’ll be 28 years from now.

I look forward to meeting you all.

In solidarity,
Michael Gadaleta

Kelly Drummond

Local 94 Crew Keep Things Comfortable at Westin Times Square

With its bright lights, the Broadway theaters, the steady rumbles of 10 subway lines, and the endless stream of people from around the globe Times Square is indeed the “cross-roads of the world.”

For out-of-town visitors or New Yorkers out-on-the-town the Westin Times Square Hotel at the corner of 43rd and Eighth provides the perfect place to keep the excitement going, enjoy a quiet cocktail or rest up for tomorrow.

Ensuring the comfort of those thousands of guests is an 18-man engineering team 16 of whom are represented by Local 94. The team is as diverse and energized at being at the Westin Times Square as any of the tourists wandering the lobby.

“We have a really good team,” explained Andy Chan. “Everyone here is always willing to help. We do. We help each other,” said Chan.

And they’ve been doing it for some time. Chan and most of the Local 94 crew of William Chock, David Aguilar, Eugene Tsatlin, Luis Mendoza, Omar Mendoza, Julian Sissu, Steve Chow, Marcos Nord have been working at the hotel for 10 years or more.

Like nearly all Local 94 members within the Hotel Trades Council the foremost responsibilities of the team are to ensure the comfort of the guests. If there is a problem with the room temperature or there is a problem with the hot water or a light bulb, a member of the team will respond.

“Three people are always on call. There’s always one or two people working on a project,” explained Tsatlin. Those projects can range from the operation and maintenance of the four gas-fueled Fulton boilers, the HVAC, three centrifuges’, and five hot water heaters, and working on major renovation projects.

In today’s modern hotel world renovations never seem to end. Just recently the team participated in transforming the 23rd floor fitness center and spa into 10 new guestrooms while moving the fitness center to the eighth floor.

“We do keep them pretty busy and pull them in all different directions,” said director of engineering David Zito. “There is always something to do, but they all adapt really well and they pull together. We’re pretty lucky here, these guys really like each other and get along well.

The $300 million Westin Times Square was designed by Arquitectonica, Bernardo Fort-Brescia, and Laurinda Spear who were selected after a design competition to set the stage for the “new Times Square.” Hailed by some for modern design it was described by one critic as “two 45-story prisms split by a curving beam of light.” Others had a far different take: “the ugliest building in New York” wrote another.

There is however no controversy about the amenities and abilities of the Local 94 crew and the entire hotel staff in making their guests, from around the world or around the block feel welcome.
This Year's Local 94 Scholarship Recipients

Christina Corbo
A graduate of Paul D. Schreiber High School, Christina was on the Principals Honor Roll, inducted into six different Honor Societies; and elected President for the Foreign Language Honor Society. She also participated in fashion courses and volunteered for high-end designers like Oscar de la Renta. Christina will be attending Polimoda, a fashion academy in Florence, Italy where she will study Fashion Communications and Fashion Styling.

Samantha Fraembs
A graduate of Wantagh High School, Samantha earned an Advanced Regents diploma with mastery in math and science; was named an AP Scholar with Honors and the recipient of the Nassau County Student Citizenship Award. Samantha is now a Biology major attending Feedham University in the Bronx.

Megan Italiano
While attending East Stroudsburg High School, Megan was in the National Honors Society, the National Society of High School Scholars, and Captain of the girls’ swim team. Active in her community she was a member of the KEY Club and a swim and ski instructor for children with special needs. Megan is attending the University of Pittsburgh- Rehabilitation Sciences and plans to pursue a career as an Occupational Therapist.

Jeremy Kline
While attending Sachem High School East, Jeremy participated in a science research program at the Brookhaven National Labs National Synchrotron Light Source; and a volunteer researcher at Stony Brook University’s school of Marine and Atmospheric Science. In addition, he was chapter President of National Honor Society and Vice President of the History Honor Society. Jeremy is studying Biochemistry at Stony Brook University following a pre-med track.

Jonathan Kline
While attending Sachem High School East he was involved with the National Honor Society, the Science National Honor Society, and the Foreign Language Honor Society. He was also President of the National History Club and Honor Society; a volunteer tutor at the local library; and through the St. Baldrick’s Foundation shaved different Honor Societies; and elected President for the Foreign Language Honor Society. She also participated in fashion courses and volunteered for high-end designers like Oscar de la Renta. Christina will be attending Polimoda, a fashion academy in Florence, Italy where she will study Fashion Communications and Fashion Styling.

Travis Nathan
While attending Kings Park High School, Travis was inducted into the National Honor Society and was on the Academic Honor Roll. Travis was Vice President of his church youth group, where as a volunteer he helped feed the homeless; organize collections for local families in need; provided support for Wounded Warrior Events and assisted at the Guardian Angel Family Crisis Center. Travis has been accepted into the Honors Program at Quinnipiac University and will be studying Biomedical Engineering.

Christopher Piro
A graduate of Sachem North High School, Christopher was a member of the National Science, History and Foreign Language Honor Societies. In his junior and senior years he volunteered at Stony Brook University Hospital. He was also a member of the Coaches Club and Interact Club. Christopher attends Binghamton University where he is majoring in Biology with a minor in Mathematics with the prospect of attending medical school.

Ashley Schindler
While attending St. Joseph Hill Academy in Staten Island, New York Ashley received First Honors and a Silver Presidential Award for Community Service. She was a contributing author and Co-Editor for the school newspaper. Along with her volunteer work she turned her love of writing and her passion for NASCAR and developed a successful NASCAR themed blog. Ashley is attending High Point University in North Carolina with a major in Communications.

Lisa-Marie Serrone
While attending Preston High School in the Bronx, Lisa-Marie was a member of the National English Honor Society and the National Math Honor Society. After school she served as a teachers aide in her elementary school CCD program as well as a volunteer at a local day care. For her Independent Senior Project, she is observing a first grader with autism and building a model classroom using technology to best teach children with autism. Lisa-Marie is attending Pace University-Pleasantville Campus, pursuing a degree in Childhood/Special Education.

Zackary Zapolsky
While attending Brooklyn Technical High School, Zachary was President of Brooklyn Tech’s award winning Model UN Club. He was an active participant in Science Olympiad and was involved in molecular biology research at Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine in Harlem. He devoted much of his free time tutoring at the Star Learning Center, which provides academic help for low income high school and middle school students. Zachary is attending Brown University where he is pursuing a double major in applied mathematics and physics. He plans to be a physicist at CERN.
Training Center Faculty Sullivan, Kelly and Fried Swing into Retirement

We have come a long way since Local 94 first opened the doors to our Training Center nearly 30 years ago. We are very proud of what we have accomplished and will continue to look at expanding our programs, upgrading our technology, and taking any additional steps to ensure the members of Local 94 continue to set the standard for the industry.

But all the equipment and all the ideas are meaningless if we did not have the instructors who not only share their knowledge, but have the ability to engage, encourage, and provide the extra help when a student is struggling. Fortunately those are just the type of people who find their way to the front of our classrooms.

We have often privately expressed our gratitude and thanks to our instructors for their contributions. So when long-time instructor Jim Sullivan announced his retirement in January we felt this would be an appropriate time to thank him and some of the other long-time instructors who have also recently retired.

Mel Fried retired four years ago and Jim Kelly retired earlier last year. Both Mel and Jim were full time instructors who have been at the Training Center from its earliest days. Like Sullivan, nearly all of those instructors have come to us with a solid hands-on background in the industry. A member of Local 94 since 1970, Sullivan began his career as a Shutdown Engineer at the Mechanics Institute. After three years at 717 Fifth Ave., Sullivan was hired in 1980 as Chief Engineer at 555 Madison Ave. It was after taking the Universal Technician Certification Course; he realized he wanted to be an instructor.

“I had developed extensive knowledge working with centrifugals, turbines, absorbers and package units of all sizes,” Sullivan explained. “I realized that not only could I be an instructor, but I would also be helping future engineers by sharing my experience.”

Sullivan is now “paying it forward” on the golf courses in and around Ocala. His main concern now: the mechanics of his golf swing.

There is financial advice available to you. It is personalized, confidential and provided at no cost to you. Participants in the Annuity Fund of the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 94-94A-94B have financial advice available to them free of charge either online or via telephone.

Participants can call J.W. Thompson at 888-453-1869 to receive one-on-one personalized investment advice for their Annuity Fund account from a Certified Retirement Counselor.

This service is provided to the participants of the Annuity Fund free of charge. Other investments or accounts a participant may have can be taken into account when recommendations are made. Participants are under no obligation to follow the advice and the firm is not selling anything.

As a Local 94 member, you are also entitled to a fully paid, confidential financial review with a Certified Financial Planner from Stacey Braun Associates, Inc. Local 94 members and retirees can receive one consultation per year in person or by phone in addition to unlimited access to a financial help desk by email or website. The advice you will receive is FREE and may include a written summary containing recommendations. The one on one session with you and a Financial Planner can cover a variety of topics that are relevant to your financial present and future. Topics you might want to cover in your confidential review can include:

- Retirement
- Debt Management
- Budgeting
- Investments
- Estates

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Financial Advice is Available, Free! And it is Just a Phone Call Away

Members should double check their hourly wage to ascertain if they are being properly paid in accordance with the Collective Bargaining Agreement under which they are employed. Your hourly wage should be listed on the paystub provided by your employer. The wage rates are listed in the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Report any differences immediately to the person responsible for payroll at your job. If they do not rectify the matter promptly, contact your Business Agent.

If you are a Commercial Building employee and submit a claim for Sick Fund—your daily rate of pay, as reported by your employer, is listed on the check. Simply divide that amount by 8 to arrive at your hourly rate.

If the hourly rate that is reported by the employer is not accurate, then the amount reported to the Sick Fund is not accurate either and an adjustment may have to be made. If you have any questions, please contact the Benefits office.

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New 90-Day Eligibility Rule for Dependent and Spousal Coverage

This is a reminder that effective January 1, 2014, you will have 90 days to enroll all new eligible dependents (e.g., spouses and/or children) as of their applicable date (i.e., the date of marriage, the child’s birthdate, date of adoption or placement for adoption or foster care, or, in the case of step-children, the date of marriage to the step-child’s parent) that establishes their spousal relationship or dependent status with you. If you fail to do so within the applicable 90-day period, dependent coverage will not be available under the Plan for your new spouse or dependent child until the first day of the month following the date in which you provide the Fund Office with the required documentation and any other verifying information requested. If your spouse or dependent children are already enrolled in the Plan, no action is needed in order to maintain their coverage under the Plan.

ALL ADULT DEPENDENT CHILDREN ELIGIBLE FOR COVERAGE

In addition, in accordance with the applicable dependent coverage requirements under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, the Plan will extend coverage to a participant’s eligible children up to the end of the month in which the child attains age 26 regardless of the child’s marital status, student status, employment status, eligibility for other health insurance coverage, financial dependency on the participant, or any other factor other than the relationship between the child and the participant. As a result of this change, effective as of January 1, 2014, your otherwise eligible dependent child under age 26 who was denied coverage (or who was not eligible for coverage) solely as a result of having access to health insurance coverage through an employer or were denied coverage previously, you may now enroll that child in coverage (effective as of January 1, 2014) by completing an Enrollment Form and returning it (along with any required documentation) to the Fund Office on or before March 31, 2014. The Enrollment Form must be hand-delivered to the Fund Office or postmarked and mailed by March 31st to be accepted by the Plan. If you fail to do so, dependent coverage will not be available for your non-covered child(ren) until the first day of the month following the date in which you provide the Fund Office with the completed Enrollment Form and verifying information. If your child(ren) of any age is already enrolled in the Plan, no action is needed in order to maintain their coverage under the Plan. If you need to enroll an adult dependent child, please contact the Fund Office for a copy of the Enrollment Form, which may also be downloaded online at the Plan’s website at www.local94.com.

The Health and Benefit Trust Fund of the International Union of Operating Engineers Local Union No. 94-94A-94B, AFL-CIO

To: All Participants and Beneficiaries in the Health and Benefit Trust Fund of the International Union of Operating Engineers Local Union No. 94-94A-94B, AFL-CIO

Re: HIPAA - Authorization for Release of Protected Health Information

Protecting the privacy of your health information is very important to us here at the Health and Benefit Trust Fund of the I.U.O.E. Local 94-94A-94B, AFL-CIO (the “Fund”). You may recall having previously received the Fund’s “Notice of Privacy Practices”. That Notice advised you of a federal law, the “Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996” or “HIPAA” which prohibits the Fund under most circumstances from providing your “protected health information” to anyone but you, unless you previously completed, signed and filed with the Fund an “Authorization for Release of Protected Health Information” ("Authorization"). Protected health information is information (including demographic information) which is created or received by the Fund, relates to your physical or mental health or condition, the provision of health care to you, or the payment for such health care, and which could reasonably be used to identify you. For example, husbands are not able to inquire on behalf of wives with respect to the wives’ medical bills, and vice-versa, unless the Fund Office receives an authorization. Under most circumstances parents may inquire as to their minor (under 18) children’s bills, but children 18 and over need to complete an authorization form.

The Health and Benefit Fund recently mailed to all Participants’ an Authorization for Release of Protected Health Information. The current Authorization for Release of Protected Health Information you have on file with the Fund expires April 3, 2014. The new Authorization for Release of Protected Health Information that was mailed the middle of March will no longer expire, but will remain in effect and be enforced until the date you revoke it, or when your Fund coverage terminates, whichever one of these dates is the earlier thereof.

Please make sure that you have completed, signed and filed the Authorization for Release of Protected Health Information with the Fund Office. If you lose this form, or if you have filed the form and you later wish to change or update your authorization form at any time, you can obtain a form via the internet at www.local94.com or from the Fund Office. If you have any questions concerning the form please contact the Fund Office.

Did You Know?

If a member actually retires at 70½ and stays home for a least one full calendar month and subsequently returns to work after the age of 70½, such retiree can do so without regard to the Plan’s general suspension of benefit rules. The participant must first actually retire and be retired for one full calendar month, before this exception applies.

You are eligible for retiree medical coverage if:

• You have 15 years of Total Credited Service (as defined in the Central Pension Fund);
• You are receiving a pension from the Central Pension Plan;
• You have had five years of continuous coverage under the Health and Benefit Trust Fund for the 5 years immediately preceding your retirement date under the Central Pension Fund; and you pay the required premiums for retiree coverage (Commercial Division only).

Notice To All Sick Fund Participants That Have A Chase Bank Account

IF YOU HAVE A CHASE BANK ACCOUNT, YOU MUST WAIT UNTIL AFTER 2PM, THE DAY THE CHECK IS ISSUED BY THE FUND OFFICE, TO CASH OR DEPOSIT THE CHECK. PLEASE CONTACT THE SICK FUND 212-331-1826 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.
About the National September 11 Memorial Museum

With the National September 11 Memorial Museum scheduled to open to the public on Wednesday, May 15, 2014, we have profiled the members of Local 94 who maintain the Memorial pools and the site. We at Local 94 need not be reminded of the loss of our brothers Vito DeLeo, John Griffin, Charles Magee and David Williams. Prior to the public opening the Museum officials have announced they will be holding a Dedication Period from Thursday, May 15 through Tuesday, May 20 that includes special previews of the Museum for:

- Family members whose loved ones were killed in the attacks of September 11, 2001 or February 26, 1993
- 9/11 rescue and recovery workers who participated in the response at the World Trade Center, Fresh Kills Landfill, the Pentagon, or Flight 93 crash site
- Active duty first responders
- Survivors of the 9/11 attacks
- Current lower Manhattan (below Canal Street) residents or business owners, or those who were residents or business owners in lower Manhattan during the 9/11 attacks

The Dedication Period previews will be free, but reservations are required. Upon entry, you will be asked to provide identification. A ceremony within the Museum will begin the Dedication Period on Thursday, May 15. Since the capacity for the ceremony is limited given the Museum’s space constraints, we are holding a lottery for all members of the above groups who are interested in attending the ceremony.

If you are a member of one of the groups listed above, you may reserve your free ticket(s) to preview the Museum during the Dedication Period and enter the lottery for the ceremony at www.911memorial.org/dedication.

Local 94 School Workers Need Your Support

As of the writing of this article, Local 94 has introduced legislation on behalf of our school workers in the NYS Assembly and NYS Senate. Nily Rozic, NYS Assembly member in District 25 sponsored bill A8699-2013 in the NYS Assembly and Diane Savino, NYS Senator in District 23 sponsored the legislation in the Senate S6690-2013. The proposed legislation would expand the definition of building service employees and contractor in § 230 (1) and (4) of Article 9 of the New York State Labor law to include custodial workers.

Your involvement in Union meetings, community events, and most importantly in political action is paramount. If you do not participate in the political action fund (PAC) consider signing a political action card today. Please consider this an important step to bolster our strength.

Local 94 school workers will need political action support in every area of our government but especially in the NY State Assembly and NY State Senate to win this fight. We implore you to get involved in the process. It is now time to contact your NYS assembly members and NYS Senators to make them aware of our fight to secure their support of this legislation listed above. If you are not sure who your representatives are then please log onto the Local 94 website in the Union’s political action tab and click on the links to find your representatives. http://www.local94.com/local-94/political-action-committee.aspx.

Please call Nily Rozic and Diane Savino or personally stop in their office to thank them for sponsoring this bill and explain to them what it means to you and your family, to know they are fighting for you. Union strength is in it’s numbers. Not one else. Each and every school worker must demonstrate to our politicians, whose lever we pull, that this fight is important. Don’t stand on the sideline and think it is a job for someone else. Each and every school worker must be involved.

Get Involved!! To join the political action fund and its’ efforts, please contact your Union Representative. Ray Macco (212) 586-7633 or Jack Redden (212) 245-7935

Don’t Forget

Wednesday
April 9

BLOOD DRIVE
8 am to 2 pm, Local 94 Training Center, 331-337 West 44th St. Contact: Ray Macco (212) 586-7633

Give Blood

Ray Macco and Jack Redden

Local 94 Spring Golf Outing
Monday May 12

Local 94 Spring Golf Outing, 8 am, South Shore and LaTourette Golf Courses, Staten Island. Contact: Jack Redden, (212) 245-7935

Get Involved!! To join the political action fund and its’ efforts, please contact your Union Representative.

Ray Macco (212) 586-7633
or Jack Redden (212) 245-7935
Calendar of Events

Wednesday, April 9
Blood Drive, 8 am to 2 pm, Local 94 Training Center, 331-337 West 44th Street. Contact: Ray Macco (212) 586-7633.

Wednesday, April 9
General Membership Meeting, 8:30 am, 2 pm, and 5 pm, Hotel Trades Council auditorium, 305 West 44th Street.

Tuesday, April 22
Chief and Assistant Chief Meeting, 5 pm, The United Federation of Teachers, 52 Broadway. Contact: John Kramer (212) 245-7904.

Monday, May 12
Local 94 Spring Golf Outing, 8 am, South Shore and LaTourette Golf Courses, Staten Island. Contact: Jack Redden, (212) 245-7935.

Wednesday, May 14
General Membership Meeting, 8:30 am, 2 pm, and 5 pm, Hotel Trades Council auditorium, 305 West 44th Street.

Thursday, May 15
Retirement Seminar, 4 pm - 7 pm, Hotel Trades Council auditorium, 305 West 44th Street. Contact: Joan DiMarco (212) 331-1836.

Wednesday, June 4
New Members Meeting, 4 pm, Hotel Trades Council auditorium, 305 West 44th Street.

Wednesday, June 11
General Membership Meeting, 8:30 am, 2 pm, and 5 pm, Hotel Trades Council auditorium, 305 West 44th Street. Service Awards Ceremony will be conducted at 5 pm.

Saturday, July 26
Local 94 Family Picnic, Pomona NY

Wednesday, September 10
General Membership Meeting, 8:30 am, 2 pm, and 5 pm, Hotel Trades Council auditorium, 305 West 44th Street.

Wednesday, October 1
New Members Meeting, 4 pm, Hotel Trades Council Auditorium 305 West 44th Street

Wednesday, October 8
General Membership Meeting, 8:30 am, 2 pm, and 5 pm, Hotel Trades Council auditorium, 305 West 44th Street.

Wednesday, November 12
General Membership Meeting, 8:30 am, 2 pm, and 5 pm, Hotel Trades Council auditorium, 305 West 44th Street.

Wednesday, December 10
General Membership Meeting (Holiday Toy and Coat Drive), 8:30 am, 2 pm, and 5 pm, Hotel Trades Council auditorium, 305 West 44th Street.

Upcoming Local 94 meetings and events are also listed at: www.local94.com/local-94/upcoming-events