VOTING
MORE THAN JUST A RIGHT

Importance of Voting
Especially for Union Members

Fighting Voter Suppression

Election Day Mishaps
& What You Need To Know About Voting

How a PUBLIC SECTOR UNION
Came to Represent Private Sector Groups
“The whole purpose of democracy is for every person to have a say in what goes on, and when less than half the country is voting, not everyone’s voice is being heard. And when not everyone is being heard, that’s not a democracy.”

Why You Should Vote In This Year’s Elections

It is not just the president on the ballot

How much the next president can do depends on which political party controls the Senate and the House. The size of those parties’ majorities also makes a difference. A filibuster-proof supermajority in the Senate, for instance, can enable or cripple a president much more decisively than a simple majority.

Higher turnout makes our democracy more representative

Many Americans who support labor-friendly policies do not bother voting — particularly in elections when the presidency is not at stake.

Voting is a right generations of Americans struggled to win and people in other countries are still fighting for

Citizens may take their right to vote for granted, but it wasn’t that long ago when entire groups of the population — like women and African-Americans — were denied that right. Women gained suffrage in 1919, meaning the grandmothers of many not-voting millennials were alive during a time when they were prohibited from casting a ballot.

Voting is your voice

Voting is an important, meaningful way to back the issues you care about — and the representatives you think can best effect the changes you want to see. If nothing else, voting gives you a justifiable right to complain about your elected officials. Your grievances will carry more weight if you speak out as a voter trying to hold your candidates accountable for their promises.
Especially for Union Members

VOTING. Everyone talks about it. Not enough actually do it.

There is so much hype about voting. We are encouraged by our parents and families to vote. Politicians tell us we need to vote. And even our union reminds us to cast our vote on Election Day. Yet, too many still ask “what’s the big deal; why should I bother?”

Voting — an expression of opinion or preference. Considering how many things in the United States are decided by voting, more people should be running to the polls. President, governors, state and federal legislators, and judges are all voted on by the general population.

“Considering how much of our government, and everything else for that matter, revolves around voting and elections, it would seem likely that more of us would be rushing to the voting booth,” said CWA Local 1180 President Arthur Cheliotes. “No matter how many times people are told that voting is a right and a responsibility, that voting is in the best interests of all of labor, that voting is a necessity for labor unions to succeed, not enough of us actually head to the polls.”

According to published reports, the 2008 US Census Bureau says that only 63% of all people registered to vote actually did so. That doesn’t seem like such a horrible number until you realize that only 72% of Americas are even registered to vote in the first place. In reality, only 45% of Americans are voting in elections even though the general populace has the power to sway this country.

Here’s a quick history lesson from constitutioncenter.org: Amendment XXVI gives young adults between the age of 18 and 21 the right to vote. The measure is another in a line of constitutional changes that expanded the right to vote to more citizens. At the time of the ratification of the Constitution in 1788, most states limited voting to white, male citizens who were over the age of 21.

It took 82 years for African American slaves to gain a constitutional right to vote, 132 years for women’s suffrage and 183 years for those 18 to 21 years old to join the voting population. The impetus for this change was the passage of amendments to the Voting Rights Act in 1970 that set 18 as the minimum voting age for both federal and state elections.

The problem is that young adults and minorities often see little value in actually voting for anything other than President. What they don’t realize is that everyday things like college financial aid, the opportunity for jobs, and how much they pay in taxes are all controlled by politicians. So in reality, casting a vote in your late teens and early 20s actually does make a difference. According to an article in the New York Times, “In one of the more pleasant surprises of this presidential campaign, young Americans are voting in big numbers, contributing to some unexpected results so far. This is the first presidential campaign in which people age 18 to 29 make up the same proportion of the electorate as do baby boomers — about one-third. This year, the youth turnout for both parties in the primaries so far is rivaling 2008, the year of Barack Obama’s first campaign.”

That’s the good news. However, while the U.S. may be the world’s oldest continuous democracy, we won’t remain a democracy if people don’t vote. Reports show that this country had the ninth lowest voting rate among the 35 countries in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (huffingtonpost.com). The 2008 presidential election, in which the first African American had a chance to lead our nation, saw more people register to vote than in recent history.

The excitement and enthusiasm that surrounded that election year, and the subsequent 2012 election year, gave Americans something to be proud of. Everyone wanted to be a part of history in casting their vote to put a non-traditional white male in the Oval Office.

The same type of invigoration and rejuvenation in the American spirit that President Obama instilled in our youth and black populations, is what Bernie Sanders did in this election cycle. According to that same New York Times article, “Many find it odd that the 74-year-old Sanders would have this appeal. But John Della Volpe wasn’t surprised. Surveying young voters in November 2015, Della Volpe, the director of polling at the Harvard Institute of Politics, noted that support for Sanders among potential voters age 18 to 29 had rocketed from 1 percent to 41 percent in about six months. Asked what they valued most in a candidate, young voters said integrity, level-headedness, and authenticity, in that order. Political and business experience were far down the list.”

Young voters have typically been tough to motivate. They just don’t see the value in voting. They want to take on active rolls in campaigns. They want to volunteer. They just need a reason to do so. And there’s one of the underlying problems with getting different age groups out to vote. There needs to be a reason.

Fast forward to the November 2016 election and that enthusiasm has significantly waned. Voters have said time and again that there just isn’t anyone worth voting for so they won’t be going to the polls. As a labor union, members must spread the word that nothing can be further from the truth. The race for president is not the only seat New Yorkers will be voting on, as our state Senators and Assembly members are also on the ballot, as are all Congressional seats and one U.S. Senate seat from New York, numerous local judges and other seats. But it’s the race for president that’s going to come down to the wire.

It’s beyond baffling to hear Americans of all ages say they aren’t going to vote. Consider this: if just one person decides not to vote and convinces 10 friends to do the same, and those 10 friends each convince 10 more friends not to vote, this country will have a huge “snowball effect” of no one voting.

As union members, our votes hold a lot of weight. CWA and Local 1180 spend ample time scrutinizing candidates and throw their weight behind those who will be labor friendly and work with unions on issues and causes of importance to our members. Since there is strength in numbers, if members get behind the labor-endorsed candidates and all head to the polls, we can succeed in putting the right politicians in office. With major issues in this election centering on wages and income inequality, union members are expected to turn out in record numbers, according to Cheliotes.

He said that as a country, we need to work together to stem a system that is controlled by the rich and corporations, a conclusion that is backed by recent research of political scientists.

According to PewResearchCenter, the economy and terrorism are the top two issues for voters this fall. Overall, 84% of registered voters say that the issue of the economy will be very important to them in making their decision for president and 80% say terrorism will be an important determining factor. Other top-ranking issues of important in how Americans will cast their vote are foreign policy, health care, gun control and immigration. An open seat on the U.S. Supreme Court also weighs in to some voters’ decision making.

“These are issues of importance across the board, regardless of which populace you fall into,” Cheliotes said. “And these are the issues that Local 1180 and CWA have delved into when deciding which candidates to support.”

“Being a member of a union and exercising your right to vote should be something you set aside time for on Election Day,” he said. “No matter what your age, religion, gender or color, we all need to vote. We are the 99%. Our voices must be heard. As individuals, no one hears us. As union members, united for the causes we believe in, our roar is deafening.”

Cheliotes said that no matter what, every American should get out to vote if we are going to keep this country as a true Democracy.
FIGHTING VOTER SUPPRESSION

New Voting Restrictions in Place for 2016 Presidential Election

This year, 17 states will have new voting restrictions in place for the first time in a presidential election. These new laws range from strict photo ID requirements to early voting cutbacks to registration restrictions. The repercussions of these voting restrictions will be far reaching for years to come, and could eventually make their way into New York if something isn’t done to halt these tactics of keeping certain blocks of voters away from the polls.

Voter suppression laws as they are known concern allegations about various efforts, legal and illegal, used to prevent eligible voters from their right to vote. These laws place huge burdens on eligible voters trying to exercise their basic fundamental constitutional rights. In the last eight years, many states have passed stricter measures making it more difficult for certain ethnic groups to vote, particularly African-Americans, the elderly, students and those with disabilities.

As a union representing a heavy population of those categorized as minorities, fighting voter suppression is at the top of Local 1180’s list, according to President Arthur Cheliotes. “We must engage in advocacy and litigation in order to stop these harmful voter suppression measures once and for all,” he said. “The stories we have heard from members regarding the difficulties they have experienced at the polling places have been eye opening.”

More than 30 states have considered laws that would require voters to present a government-issued photo ID in order to vote. Studies suggest that up to 11 percent of American citizens lack this type of identification and would be required to navigate governmental bureaucracy in order to obtain one or forego the right to vote entirely.

Most will undoubtedly choose the latter.

Since 1965, the Voting Rights Act (VRA) has protected minority voters at the polls. It knocked down the suppressive measures that had previously prevented African-Americans from voting in the South for decades.

After the VRA was passed, federal registrars were sent to the South to register voters in the area’s most segregated places like Selma, AL, where only 2% of the African-American population was registered to vote at the time.

This Selma story was turned into the critically-acclaimed film of the same name, and while it was expected to garner many votes for Best Picture in 2015, ended up receiving a paltry two nominations. In addition, the Academy’s 20 acting nominations went to a group with no representation from communities of color. This situation ignited an onslaught of well-deserved criticism of the Academy and its voting process.

“It’s ironic that a film depicting history about voter suppression at a time when voter suppression is surging in America did not receive more recognition,” Cheliotes said.

According to the Center for American Progress Action Fund, “…too many Republicans are in a race-to-the-bottom to further disenfranchise voters. In 2014 alone, at least 83 restrictive voting bills were introduced in 29 states. This regressive wave of voter suppression efforts targets and most affects voters in the same communities already fighting for inclusion in other aspects of life: young people, low-income families, and people of color.

“This is a movie we have seen before. Despite plot twists — such as poll taxes, literacy tests, voter ID, and contracted early voting windows — and a changing cast of characters, the script remains the same: a concerted, coordinated effort to suppress the basic right to cast a vote and have it counted. “One might say it’s as though some conservatives are vying for the Academy Awards of Voter Suppression.”

Cheliotes said that in June 2013, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the coverage formula (Section 4) used for how the Justice Department enforces Section 5 of the VRA, which required jurisdictions with significant histories of voter discrimination to ‘pre-clear’ any new voting practices or procedures. In its 5-4 decision however, the Court did not strike down Section 5 itself, leaving it to Congress to devise a new coverage formula.

While that Shelby County v. Holder decision is now three years old, it is expected to have a huge impact at the polls for the 2016 presidential elections. State legislatures have been far more active since the Shelby decision, with more than 20 states, including New York, making positive changes for voters, like implementing online voter registration. But voting regulations have a long way to go.

“In some areas we have made progress, but it isn’t enough. As we approach the first presidential election in 50 years without the full protections of the Voting Rights Act, we need to take further action,” Cheliotes said. “We are asking our members to be vigilant when they go to vote and immediately report anything that seems out of the ordinary. States have wasted no time implementing new voting restrictions and we must do all we can to ensure that similar-type restrictions do not make their way into New York.”

— By Marci Rosenblum
Local 1180 Communications Director
Sitting Out This Election Just Is NOT An Option

Our union is actively involved in politics because we understand that our members’ standard of living is directly tied to the decisions elected officials make that impact our lives. In essence, those we put in office control wages, hours, working conditions, benefits and so much more.

Government also affects us in our homes and neighborhoods, the quality of our health care system, education, housing, public health and safety protections. Zoning and land use determines if we can afford to live in our neighborhoods. Politics and political power shape government policies; politics determines who will pay for government services and who will benefit from them. Many of our members play an important role in providing government services but if those services are scaled back, our members not only lose those services they could lose their jobs.

Members’ interests drive our union’s political activity and help determine which candidates we support. As we all know, our political system has not been responsive to our needs. For example, healthcare is very expensive but very profitable for a few who know how to shape public policy. The result is we spend twice per capita for healthcare than Canada or Great Britain, yet lag far behind in quality and outcomes. More than 500,000 Americans file for bankruptcy yearly due to healthcare costs in our nation, something unheard of in Canada or Great Britain. The very idea that healthcare should be a profit center for corporations is irrational in a civilized society. Profiting under these circumstances is immoral and should be illegal.

Healthcare profiteering is one of the many examples of a political system rigged to meet the wants of the 1%, not the needs of the 99%. So when presidential candidate Bernie Sanders proposed Medicare for All, we paid attention. His other policy proposals also made sense — free public higher education, a more progressive tax system, and securing Social Security. Most important was the systemic change a Sanders election would have brought about — a radical restoration of democracy and participation, an end to the oligarchic power of a wealthy elite, and a new era of economic, racial, and climate justice.

Bernie Sanders went to the Democratic National Convention with 45% of the elected delegates on a campaign without big money donors. I served as a New York State representative for Bernie Sanders on the DNC Rules Committee, which established a commission that will make changes in the appointment of super delegates to reflect the votes in that state. The Sanders campaign succeeded in moving Hillary Clinton to adopt more progressive stances on issues. It’s unfortunate Bernie Sanders will not be our next president.

This, of course, is all prologue to the choice we must make for president on November 8, either Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump. CWA chooses Clinton, just as Bernie did. We know we will need to work diligently to hold her accountable to her campaign’s promises. But we need to elect her first.

Clinton was elected to the U.S. Senate from New York in 2000 with Working Families Party (WFP) support; she will be on the Presidential ballot in New York on the WFP line and we must vote for her on that line.

She has said: “As President, I will stand with working families like I have my entire career. We’ll build an economy that works for everyone, not just those at the top, and finally make the minimum wage a living wage.”

At the DNC, some argued that Bernie supporters should focus on electing down-ballot progressives and remain ‘outside’ in order to continue pressuring her, without endorsing her; I strongly disagreed as there is too much at stake. The Supreme Court appointments alone will have a great impact on our nation for generations to come. I agree with the agenda put together by the Working Families Party.

First. Defeat Trump and elect Clinton. This means working to mobilize every voter to come to the polls in sufficient numbers to elect Clinton.

Second. Elect the best down-ballot progressives. The republican stone-walling of Obama has shown us that no president alone can make the change we need! That’s why we are backing candidates for Congress who will be leaders in the fight for Bernie’s agenda, like New York congressional candidate Zephyr Teachout.

Third. Hold Clinton accountable to the promises she makes by continuing to organize in 2017. Together with allies, we aim to build a powerful coalition that can keep the pressure high on our progressive priorities.

Fourth. We need to recruit, train and elect the next generation of progressive leaders, and work with them to help build the political revolution.

As Dan Cantor from the WFP said, “The truth is, if she becomes President, she will only be as good as we — social movements, unions, progressive activists and organizations — make her.”

But first we must elect Hillary Clinton, and that may be tougher than polls suggest. As famous documentary film producer Michael Moore pointed out, in a blue state like New York, we are living in a bubble where we and our friends are convinced the American people are not going to elect an idiot like Trump...or would they?

I am sure that if people could vote from their couch at home on their X-box or PlayStation, Hillary would win in a landslide. But people need to be encouraged to get out and vote. Right now Hillary’s supporters aren’t enthusiastic, and you know what I’m talking about.

Voters actually have to leave the house and get in line to vote. And if they live in poor, Black or Hispanic neighborhoods, they not only have a longer line to wait in, they have to deal with everything that is being done to stop them from casting a ballot. On the other hand, Trump has the most rabid supporters. His crazed fans are going to be up at 5:00 AM on Election Day, working all day until the last polling place has closed.

Remember the Brexit vote? Like many in Britain, Americans are convinced this election is their chance to stick it to all those who wrecked their dreams. Donald Trump, the outsider, has arrived to clean house. Many may not agree with him or even like him, but this is their chance to cast a protest vote at those who stole their dreams.

Many sophisticated Trump supporters and Hillary haters cannot be underestimated. Michael Moore has referred to how they might vote as “The Jesse Ventura Effect.”

He explains that we must not “discount the electorate’s ability to be mischievous or underestimate how many millions fancy themselves as closet anarchists once they draw the curtain and are all alone in the voting booth. Remember back in the ’90s when the people of Minnesota elected a professional wrestler as their governor? They didn’t do this because they’re stupid or thought that Jesse Ventura was some sort of statesman or political intellectual. They did so just because they could. Minnesota is one of the smartest states in the country. Voting for Ventura was their version of a body slam on a sick political system.”

We must come to terms with the fact that Hillary is unpopular.

Continued on page 15
MEMBERS IN ACTION

Puerto Rican Day Parade

A sunny Sunday in mid June brought together an estimated 100,000 participants for this year’s 59th annual National Puerto Rican Day Parade that marched up Fifth Avenue in Manhattan as big crowds lined the parade route. Organizers say there were 1.5 million spectators who lined the route from 44th Street to 59th Street. Actress Rosario Dawson was the parade queen and New York Knicks star Carmelo Anthony was the parade king. The parade is traditionally held on the second Sunday in June in honor of the nearly four million inhabitants of Puerto Rico and all people of Puerto Rican birth or heritage residing in the United States. It has grown to be one of the largest parades in the City. This was the first time that the Labor Council For Latin American Advancement (LCLAA) marched in the parade behind its own banner. Charles Garcia, LCLAA Third Vice President and CWA 1180 Executive Board Member, represented the Union. Edwin Rosario, LCLAA President, and Garcia’s son also marched with him.

Pink for a Cause

The Local 1180 Women’s Committee recently held its annual Pink & White Afternoon Brunch on August 13. The brunch was held to begin the kickoff for the American Cancer Society’s “Making Strides For Breast Cancer” walk on October 16, 2016, in Central Park. Committee members pictured in front: Lisa Lloyd and Precious Foster. Standing are Bernice Selman, Dorothy Wall, Lenora Smith, Lynda Hogan, Hilary Bloomfield, Denise Gilliam, Dian Duke, Sherry Johnson-O’Neal, Beverline Parks and Jacqueline Gadsden.
Annual Membership Picnic

CWA Local 1180 members, their families, and friends turned out for the Union’s Annual Picnic on September 3 at the famous Holiday Hill in Cheshire, CT.

This year’s picnic brought more than two dozen bus loads of fun-seekers as well as hundreds who drove themselves. The all-day event was sponsored by the Local and coordinated by Member-At-Large Hazel O. Worley.

Worley said, “This year’s picnic was even more electrifying than in the past. There was a noticeable increase in the activities available to our guests. It was exciting to see our members and their families compete against one another in the family games, water games, and the dance floor. The excitement on the faces of the kids was priceless.”

There was definitely something for everyone, even retirees. “Every year the picnic is getting bigger and better,” Worley said. “I say this picnic can’t get any larger and every year it does.” Special thanks to faithful bus captains — our members and retirees — for another job well done in getting guests on the buses. Also thanks to 1180 dedicated staff members for their support in once again making this event a success.

Bus Captains, left side from left, Virginia Johnson-Conway, Debora Tyndall, Executive Board/Staff Representative Robin Blair-Batte, President Arthur Cheliotes, Nicole Tamika Paul, Executive Board Member Deborah Paylor, retired member Ida Gardenhive, Dareese Frierson, Debbie Walker, and 1180’s Member Benefit Representative staff Brenda Tate-White. Right side of photo from front to back: Quinella Williams, Helen S. Jarrett, Secretary-Treasurer Gloria Middleton, Linda Frazier, First Vice President Gina Strickland, Executive Board Member Hazel O. Worley, Retiree Benefit staff member Lynda Hogan, Bruce Smith, and Joann Richards.

Thanks also to the bus captains not pictured: Joyce Cruickshank, Tamika Paul, Marie Guery, staff member Sonja Fulcher, Regina Kelly, Nicole Sampson and Alicia Smith.

Retired member Irene Richards’ great granddaughter Raegan Jackson had so much fun, the only thing left to do was sleep.

Damien Arnold, Finance Controller for CWA 1180 Benefits Funds (pictured left center), and other members and their families prepare for the famous water balloon competition.

Secretary-Treasurer Gloria Middleton beams with excitement seeing the faces of members and their families on the bungee jump ride and appreciates all the work 1180 staff put into making this day such an enjoyable one.

This picnic is a true testament to the camaraderie our members share being a part of this great Local.
On a clear summer’s day, CWA 1180 retirees gathered for their 20th Anniversary Picnic this summer. On August 24 at the Black Bear Lake Country Club in Millstone, NJ, eight bus loads of eager retirees joined the activities. Some brought their significant others, children, and grandchildren. Lots of delicious food and desserts were served all afternoon. Retirees danced to the beat of Reggae, RB&B, Salsa, and R&R — everyone was on a high. Other activities included games, bingo, arts and crafts, swimming, and basketball, all of which kept the crowd busy and energized. CWA 1180 retirees are proud of reaching their 20th year milestone of participating in exciting activities, making new friends, and learning new skills. They are lucky to be able to “Do It All! Pictured from top left: Nellie Holmes and Edith Primavera, Connie and Vinnie Imbessi. At picnic table Arlene Drayton, Diane Smith, and guests. — by Carole Silverman

Leadership Conference

CWA Local 1180 members attended a CWA District 1 Leadership Conference this summer. Pictured from left are Member-at-Large Lisa Lloyd, President Arthur Cheliotes, Member-at-Large Venus Colon-Williams, New York City Councilmember Richie Torres (Bronx), and Members-at-Large Hilary Bloomfield and Charles Garcia.

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

- Condolences to Elaine Allman, former CWA 1180 Secretary-Treasurer, on the death of her sister Daisy Haynes on July 29, 2016. She was 91 years old.
- Congratulations to Retiree Juanita Daring (PAA II, HPD — Division of Construction) on the birth of her great grandson Jayce Amir Burress to granddaughter Aleesa Brown.
- Congratulations to CWA Local 1180 Members-at-Large Hilary Bloomfield and Denise Gilliam on their swearing in this summer as new delegates to the New York City Central Labor Council, an umbrella organization that represents more than 200 unions throughout the City.
- Condolences to Lincoln Bonner (Retired, Agency for Children’s Services) on the loss of his sister Dorothy Walker.
- Congratulations to Leandro Monzon on receiving a Certificate of Appreciation from CWA Local 1180 for his diligent support, hard work and expertise that have contributed to making life easier for those he helps in his role as an invaluable activist, union member and member of the Hispanic Committee.
Constitutional Referendum A Concern for Unions

Every 20 years, the people of New York State have a mandated opportunity to amend the New York State Constitution. The question of whether to amend will be put before the voters on the November 7, 2017 General Election ballot in the form of a referendum.

While many New Yorkers can tell you they have seen a referendum or proposition on at least one Election Day ballot, the majority cannot tell you what a referendum is or why it is important to understand. A referendum is a general vote by the electorate on a single political question that has been referred to them for a direct decision.

A “yes” vote on the 2017 referendum to amend the State Constitution is extremely risky business for public employee labor unions in this state. Our main concern is the protection for public employee pensions — currently protected by the State Constitution — that would be at risk. A “yes” vote for a Constitutional Convention would certainly put public employee pensions on the table for discussion and change as far as New York’s political leaders are concerned. After all, it’s our pensions that come under constant political pressure. Workers with 30 years of pension credits for unions could be insurmountable. The political leaders are concerned. After all, it’s our pensions that come under constant attack and scrutiny every time there is a budget deficit.

The devastation that could transpire for unions could be insurmountable. Workers with 30 years of pension credits with a few years to retirement could see their retirement change in the blink of an eye, or in this case, the cast of a vote. New laws and formulas for calculating pensions could be imposed. The new laws and calculations would certainly have a negative impact on pension amounts received. The new laws also could affect individuals already retired.

Voting in the affirmative to allow the Constitutional Convention could negatively change the dollar amount we all receive upon retirement. The one sure way to avoid this is to vote no for the Constitution Convention when it appears on the ballot.

This is going to require team work, however — a strong push by an organized labor movement that flexes its muscles and gets out the word that every single member in the labor movement must vote, and must vote “no.” There can’t be any holds barred. We must mobilize the troops early and not stop until we have succeeded. There is no rerun here. If the naysayers are stronger than the guardians of the working class, then we have lost the war.

With the current climate of resentment toward public employee pensions, we are truly in for an uphill battle in defeating the referendum. The resentment, in this case, would be generated by the likes of the Koch Brothers and their allies. Millions of dollars will find its way into campaigns for an affirmation of the Convention.

The Koch Brothers and company will start the campaign by bringing out anger from working New Yorkers who currently are without pensions. They will encourage them to vote against public employee pension on the simple fact that they themselves are not enjoying the benefits of a pension.

To combat this crisis, public employee unions must educate. We must not only fight for our own pensions but to create pensions for all New Yorkers, even those who are not public employees.

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To combat this crisis, public employee unions must educate. We must not only fight for our own pensions but to create pensions for all New Yorkers, even those who are not public employees. This will be a hot topic for the next year, and one that will sure to become a battle of wits. With a “no” vote, the process will end on November 8, 2017 — not to be addressed again until 20 years later in 2037. However, if there is a “yes” vote, the process begins. In November 2018, three delegates to the Convention will be elected in each New York State Senate District and 15 delegates-at-large will be elected statewide. The first Tuesday of April 2019, delegates would have their first meeting in the State Capital in Albany. Any proposed Constitution or Constitutional amendments, which are adopted by the Convention, should be submitted to a vote of the entire state of New York. Amendments that are approved will go into effect the first of January in the year following the approval.

At Local 1180 we will partner with the New York State AFL-CIO, the New York State Public Employee Conference, the New York City Council, and any other reputable organization that has the shared interest of defeating the Constitutional Convention question.

Once again, let’s be absolutely clear — a “no” vote on the question of a Constitutional Convention on November 7, 2017, must happen. Labor unions and other organizations will conduct major education programs about the issues. Get on board and do all you can to help all of labor succeed in reaching our goal of defeating the referendum for a Constitutional Convention.
PUBLIC SECTOR UNIONS

“Smaller groups do better at the bargaining table when they walk side by side with larger unions that already have a presence in the labor movement and a reputation for getting members what they need and deserve.”
How They Came to Represent Private Sector Groups

While the nature of labor unions has remained the same throughout time, the structure of them certainly has changed. Take for example the Communications Workers of America. CWA was founded in 1938 at meetings in Chicago and New Orleans. First known as the National Federation of Telephone Workers, the union became the Communications Workers of America in 1947. CWA got its start in the telephone industry, but today represents workers in all areas of communications, as well as in health care and public service, customer service and many other fields.

As with most large international labor organizations (CWA now represents 700,000 workers in both the private and public sectors), CWA's base of membership has continued to expand. As an increasing number of smaller, independent locals and unaffiliated groups saw the strength of a powerhouse like CWA, they wanted to join forces and have the umbrella of the international over them.

A quick look back at history reveals how these transitions have come about, and how CWA Local 1180 today has come to represent nearly a dozen, small private sector groups — all of which sought out 1180 as a means of obtaining a stronger voice.

"Smaller groups do better at the bargaining table when they walk side by side with larger unions that already have a presence in the labor movement and a reputation for getting members what they need and deserve," said Local 1180 President Arthur Cheliotes.

As Cheliotes explained in a previous issue of the Communique, Local 1180 started off as an independent union known as the Municipal Managers Society. After public sector workers won the right to organize in the 1960s, members of the Municipal Managers voted to join the national CWA, and Local 1180 was born in 1965.

Delving back even further in time, the origins of CWA have been around since 1938 when the National Federation of Telephone Workers was formed, which then regrouped as the Communications Workers of America in 1947. CWA joined the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO), a national federation of industrial unions including the United Auto Workers, Steelworkers, and United Electrical, Radio, and Machine Workers. Although these unions initially organized in the 1930s and 40s along industrial lines, changes in the economy in the upcoming decades would change this, ultimately leading to Local 1180 joining CWA.

Whereas the American economy, especially in the Northeast and Midwest of the U.S., was predominantly based on the production and distribution of tangible goods in the first half of the 20th century, this began to change as production was moved to find cheaper sources of labor. Production was shifted first to the southern U.S. where union density, and therefore wages, was lower, and eventually was outsourced out of the country. Unions fought to keep good-paying jobs in their original locations for their members, but ultimately many huge companies moved, beginning the process of deindustrialization of what was formerly our country's center of industrial production. Rather than admit defeat, however, unions began to strategize how to keep fighting for the rights of working Americans.

As the economy changed, so too did the composition of unions. As the membership of some industrial unions began to decline, new industries began to grow, and new types of workers began to organize. No matter what industry or workplace someone works in, the desire to have a voice and protection on the job is the same. Rather than having to start from scratch like the earlier industrial unions did in the 1930s, workers in these newer industries realized they could use the existing union infrastructure to organize their own workplaces. Looking today at the membership composition of these once exclusively-industrial unions demonstrates the diversity of industries that organized in the past few decades — the UAW represents museum curators at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Steelworkers represent physicians at hospitals in Minnesota, and the United Electrical Workers represents graduate students in Iowa. In fact, CWA, in addition to still representing workers in the telecommunications industry, also has members in the public sector, news media, the airline industry, education, and healthcare.

The Municipal Managers Society affiliated with CWA in the 1960s, but that didn't stop changes in the economy and the labor movement. Whereas Local 1180 started out representing only workers from a specific industry, this too would change. Around the turn of the millennium, workers from Planned Parenthood reached out to Local 1180 expressing the desire to organize a union. Although they didn't work for the City of New York and their jobs were relatively different from that of the titles already in the union, 1180 moved forward and secured their first contract. That was the start of a new era in Local 1180 whereby today Local 1180 represents 10 different nonprofits, the most recent of which to be organized was the Open Society Foundations (OSF).

The lives of 209 Manhattan workers at OSF changed on July 21 when the group committed to justice, freedom and the rights for all became the largest foundation to organize within and lobby for cultural workplace change. The positive election outcome resulted from OSF members electing to maximize their strength for internal change. This historic vote for representation by Local 1180 means staff members can now collectively negotiate job security, educational opportunities, wages, promotions, healthcare and reap the benefits of having big brother's should to guide them through. "These individuals will now have a seat at the table to bargain with management and have a greater say in organizational decisions that affect their jobs and lives," Cheliotes said in response to the victorious event. "We look forward to having a collaborative relationship with OSF."

OSF staff chose CWA 1180 as their union because of the union's reputation for being democratically run. In addition to offices in New York and Baltimore, the Open Society Foundations has a third office in the U.S. and extended services in locations throughout the world, in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Europe, Middle East and Latin America. OSF Program Officer Karina Bentacourt said, "We want to pave the way and uplift this effort in solidarity with other workers organizing across the US and the world." They hope other foundations such as the Rockefeller and Ford foundations will be inspired and organize, too.

Organized labor combined with organized staff can further OSF's mission statement to work to build vibrant and tolerant societies whose governments are accountable and open to the participation of all people. Open Society Foundations joins other nonprofits represented by Local 1180, including ASPCA, Books and Rattles, Democracy First, Amnesty International USA and others.

Union organizer Ryan Bruckenthal said that a majority of social media comments made by OSF employees expressed having limited opportunities on the job, which became one of the main reasons for seeking the protection Local 1180 offered. Their first union contract will be subjected to bargaining surveys, grievance procedures, job descriptions and expectations, titles, and levels.

The July issue of Inside Philanthropy quoted OSF President Christopher Stone as saying, "we believe in unions". CWA Local 1180's public agencies and non-profit organizations believe in unions, too.

"We are here as a voice for our members and as a protector of the little guy, to give them a voice where they otherwise might not have one," Cheliotes said. "OSF knew that if we stood by them, their members would reap the benefits. That's why we had success in organizing their members."
May 11, 2016
Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. Executive Board Members in Attendance
Officers
Arthur Chelelis, President; Gina Strickland, First Vice President; Gerald Brown, Second Vice President; Donna Milio, Secretary-Treasur- er; Lourdes Acevedo, Recording Secretary.
Members-at-Large
Robin Blair-Ball, Hilary Bloomfield, Charles Gargiulo, Denise Gilliam, Lisa Lloyd, Debra Plyler, Lenora Smith, Hazel O. Worley, Venus Williams
Minutes of the March 30, 2016, meeting were presented. Motion was duly made, seconded, and carried to accept minutes with necessary corrections.
President’s Report
President Chelelis introduced NYS Senator, 31st District, Adriano Espaillat, who is running for the congressional seat being vacated by Charles Rangel, the 13th Congressional District of New York, in the June 28, 2016, Congressio nal Primary.
President Chelelis meetings since the last Ex- ecutive Board Meeting:
March 31, 2016 — Held a meeting with New York City Employee Retirement System (NYC- ERS) regarding the upcoming arbitratorhear- ing. That evening, he met with the Black Institute regarding the EEO Case.
April 1, 2016 — Met with the CWA Local 1180’s attorney Joel Spivak for the upcoming Administrative Manager. The arbitrator heard both sides and will rule later this year probably in the fall.
April 14, 2016 — Met with the CWA Local 1183 Board of Election President Donna G. Eblay re- garding the merger into Local 1180. That evening, met with NuPenn regarding the development of 6 Harrison Street. That evening attended the New York presidential debate at the Brooklyn Navy Yard.
April 15, 2016 — Chaired a conference call with CWA regarding a variety of defense fund issues.
April 17-21, 2016 — Travelled to Wash- ington in order to attend the DFOC committee meeting on various grant requests.
April 22, 2016 — Chaired a conference call with NuPenn regarding the development of 6 Harrison Street.
April 25, 2016 — Chaired a conference call with CWA Local 1180 Attorneys Mirkin & Gordon, PC, regarding a court action filed by 6 Harrison Street condo owners Asem & Co.
April 26, 2016 — Attended the MLC Civic General Community meeting on 03 1 7 2 danqu banners. That afternoon weekly the MLC committee.
April 27, 2016 — Held a meeting with Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez’s legislative Director Ivan Acosta and Chief of Staff Daniel Coates to discuss the establishment of the CUNY School of Labor. That afternoon held a recognition ceremony in honor of Administrative Professional Day. That day met with David Faucher and Yetta Kennard regarding the Administrative Manager EEO Case. That evening presided over the general membership meeting at Borough of Manhattan Community College BMCC. Additionally, he held a conference call with CWA Local 1180 members from the Department of Homeless Services (DHS) and Human Resources (HRA) Commissioner Steve Banks regarding the HRA and DHS merger.
April 7, 2016 — Chaired a conference call with NuPenn regarding the development of Har- rison Street. That afternoon attended a meeting with Bob Crockham, Len Shier, Steve Ferrer, and Nicholas Harison regarding expediting the HHC Assistant and Associate Director hearings at the Office of Collective Bargaining. That evening was honored at the 11th Annual Awards Dinner for the Richmond County Demo cratic Club. President Chelelis received the Harry Van Andel, Jr. Labor Award.
April 8, 2016 — Chaired a conference call with DCAS regarding defense fund grants.
April 11, 2016 — Chaired the MLC Civil Ser vice Committee meeting regarding legislation on another extension of the city waiver of Long Beach Department of Sanitation to tie scores on exams, especially education and experience exams and rule 3.56 that allows DCAS to have certain promotions. That afternoon held a meeting with DCAS Commissioner Lissette Camilo regarding establishing a citywide promotional list and extending the existing Administrative Manager list. That evening met with the Administrative Manager bargaining committee regarding the upcoming arbitration.
April 12, 2016 — Held a meeting with the Office of the Administration Caucus and the Administra tive Judge. That afternoon, held a final prep session with CWA Local 1180 attorney Joel Spivak on the upcoming Administrative Manager arbitration hearing. That evening attended the NYC CIC Awards Reception.
April 14, 2016 — Testified in front of the ar- bitrator Martin F. Sherman, Esq. at the Office of Labor Relations regarding the Administrative Manager arbitration hearing. The arbitrator heard both sides and will rule later this year probably in the fall.
May 9, 2016 — Met with CWA Local 1180 at tor Joel Spivak.
President Chelelis distributed and discussed the status report, dated April 1, 2016, from our Attorney Mirkin & Gordon, PC, listing legal matters they are working on for Local 1180. In addition, he presented and discussed the Policy Group's Briefing on contract expiration dates of Major NYC and NYS Public Employee Groups and the NYC Economy.
A motion was duly made, seconded and carried to accept the President’s Report.
First Vice President’s Report
First Vice President Gina Strickland reported the following:
First Vice President Gina Strickland reported the following.
May 3, 2016 — Met with Council Members Yda-nis Rodriguez, Carl Menchini, and Steven Matteo to discuss legislation regarding the Long Beach Department of Sanitation.
May 6, 2016 — Conducted a conference call with CWA Local 1180 attorney Joel Spivak for the upcoming Administrative Manager arbitration hearing.
May 9, 2016 — Met with Council Members Yda-nis Rodriguez, Carl Menchini, and Steven Matteo to discuss legislation regarding the Long Beach Department of Sanitation.
May 10, 2016 — Met with CWA Local 1180 at tor Joel Spivak.
President Chelelis distributed and discussed the status report, dated April 1, 2016, from our Attorney Mirkin & Gordon, PC, listing legal matters they are working on for Local 1180. In addition, he presented and discussed the Policy Group's Briefing on contract expiration dates of Major NYC and NYS Public Employee Groups and the NYC Economy.
A motion was duly made, seconded and carried to accept the President’s Report.
Second Vice President’s Report
Second Vice President Gerald Brown reported the following:
 Advised that today is day 28 of the Verizon Wireless Workers Strike and solidarity is needed more than ever to support our striking Brothers and Sisters.
 CWA Local 1180’s endorsed candidate for the April 19th Presidential Primary in NYS Bernie Sanders did not win. However, he had an excel lent showing in the state. In addition, there was a special election for the 31st District NYS Senate seat in the 9th District. This seat was vacated by convicted NYS Senator Dean Skelos. Our endorsed candidate Todd Kaminsky won the NYS Senate seat in the 9th District. That evening attended by convicted NYS Senator Dean Skelos. The seat is now in Nassau County and with the election of Todd Kaminsky, the seat went from Republican to Democratic. This victory is very big for Democrats in New York State.
 We are preparing for the June 28th Congressio nal Primary in NYC. Currently, there is only a few contested races for June 28th. Our endorsed candidate Todd Kaminsky won the NYS Senate seat in the 9th District. This seat was vacated by convicted NYS Senator Dean Skelos. This seat is now open for Republicans to capture. Todd Kaminsky is currently polling very high and is very likely to win. Our endorsed candidate Todd Kaminsky won the NYS Senate seat in the 9th District. This seat was vacated by convicted NYS Senator Dean Skelos. This seat is now open for Republicans to capture. Todd Kaminsky is currently polling very high and is very likely to win.
 After the Wright interview, an endorsement decision will be made.
 After the Congressional Primary on June 28th, we have two additional election dates:
 • September 13th, NYS Primary
 • November 8th, General Election (“The Big One”)
 On April 11th, the MLC’s Civil Service Committee met in the morning at Local 1180. The top two agenda items were:
 • NYC’s compliance with the Long Beach decision in reference to Public Services.
 • The growing problem of NYC Agencies continuously creating boutique titles. These are titles that are only unique in a particular agency. It is felt that there are already established titles in place and there is no need for the creation of boutique titles and in many cases, the titles are non-competitive.
 Later in the afternoon of April 11th, Second Vice President Brown, along with President Chelelis and First Vice President Strickland attended a meeting with DCAS Commissioner Lissette Car-milo and key members of her staff. At the meet ing, Commissioner Camilo advised that the April 30th exam for Computer Associate Technical position will be postponed. The postpone ment follows the rationale for postponing these other computer-based exams a month earlier in March 2016 as there were no decisions for the exams did not find the job the spec for the test. The time later that Commissioner Camilo would be helpful in the process and the exam decisions were issued by the prior DCAS Administration.
 Commissioner Camilo also addressed the issue of complaints resolving around the June 11, 2015, exam for Administrative Manager. She stated that the 300 complaint surveys, which Vice President Brown forwarded to DCAS, were very well written. She was also delighted that...
the complaints mentioned solutions that should be taken. She further stated that some of the solutions have been put in place. She concluded the discussion by advising that DCAS needs additional time to address the issues of the June 13th exam.

On April 14, Second Vice President Brown attended a hiring pool at HRA for Administrative Manager. Five positions were offered at the pool and all were filled.

On May 4, Second Vice President Brown attended a reception in support of NYC Public Advocate Letitia "Tish" James. He took the opportunity to open a discussion with Public Advocate James on two important issues that Second Vice President Chelotes will follow up on.

On May 6, Brown represented President Chelotes at HRA’s Employee Recognition Ceremony for staff with 25 and 30 years of service. Second Vice President Brown was well received by the audience of more than 500.

**Agencies with viable PAA Promotional Lists**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
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<td>HRA</td>
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**Agencies where lists are exhausted**

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<th>Consumer Affairs</th>
<th>Correction</th>
<th>DA-Bronx</th>
<th>DA-Kings</th>
<th>DOC</th>
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<th>DOT</th>
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**Agencies that never had a viable list**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agencies that never had a viable list</th>
<th>98</th>
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**Upcoming Events**

- **June 22, 2016**
  - **Secretary-Treasurer’s Report**
    - Secretary-Treasurer Gloria Middleton presented the Transaction Detail report for April 2016, as well as the Check Register. She advised that the T.D. accounting check has a balance of $1,108,187.18 as of C.O.B. May 10, 2016.

- **Secretary-Treasurer’s Report**
  - City Planning: Appointed # 1, 2 (two on list) |
  - #8535 Appointed # 2 (two on list) |

- **SECRETARY-TREASURER’S REPORT**
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First Vice President's Report

First Vice President Gina Strickland reported the following:

May 12, 2016 — Attended the NYC Department of Finance Employee Recognition hosted by Ex-Board Member Hillary Bloomfield.

May 16, 2016 — Attended the MYCHA Labor Relations meeting with Staff Representative Robin Blair. Nine CWA Local 1180 members will be redeployed to better service the homeless. Later that day, Staff Representative Blair attended the hiring pool for our members.

May 19, 2016 — Attended the MEC with all agency heads regarding the pre-Zika virus meeting.

May 20, 2016 — Attended the City Hall Budget Hearing for the Martyrship Institute.

May 25, 2016 — Attended the Board of Trustees Meeting.

May, 26, 2016 — Attended the retired members’ club luncheon.

June 2, 2016 — Represented CWA Local 1180 at the NY World Trade Center with Commissioner Banks, HRA, and Department of Social Services. The agencies are starting to integrate the pay-roll system into one agency.

June 4, 2016 — Attended the Civil Service Committee sponsored the Civil Service Seminar. Thirty-eight CWA Local 1180 members were in attendance for fact sheets, 11 disciplinary and 12 conflict of interest of topics, were presented. Seventeen new members joined the Committee.

June 7, 2016 — Attended H+H with Teamsters 217 and Local 1299 to sign a memorandum of understanding with Sedesco Dietary in Brooklyn. $150,000 per year educational funds can be paid to our members for the different training programs.

June 9, 2016 — Attended City Hall lobbying for the Martyrship Institute. Later that evening, attended the Civil Service Committee meeting.

June 12, 2016 — Met with Kevin Lynch regarding the ASPCA contract negotiations. They voted to strike if negotiations did not progress.

June 14-15, 2016 — Attended the CWA Legislative Forecast Conference.

June 20, 2016 — Began contract negotiations with the Unified Court System.

June 22, 2016 — Attended a meeting with OLR, H+H, and other unions to work out ways to use $54 million by 2020 to save jobs.

First Vice President Gina Strickland reported the following staff representative activity for the month of May 2016:

Activity May

Walk-Through 5

Counseling/Warning Sessions 1

EOO Investigation/Interview 1

EOD 1155 7

Hearing Preparations 8

Hearings 19

Investigative Hearings 3

Labor Management Meetings 7

OATH 19

U.S. Member Meetings 5

Supervisory Conferences 5

Site Member Meetings 10

W-2 10

Appointments 8

Telephone calls received 661

Site Meetings for May 2016

Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) 116 Bergen Street, Brooklyn

HPD 1275 Queens Boulevard, Queens

H + H Goexmuer 227 Madison Street, Manhattan

Planned Parenthood 26 Bleeker Street, Manhattan

HHS/MCOA 315 Chrystie Street, Manhattan

Dept. of Youth & Community Development 161 Williams Street, Manhattan

Department of Transportation (DOT) 120-55 Queens Boulevard, Queens

Department of Information & Technology (DOITT) 59 Maiden Lane, Manhattan

Police Department (NYPD) 1 Police Plaza, NYPD

NYPD 11 Metro Tech, Brooklyn

Motion was duly made, seconded, and carried to accept the First Vice President’s Report.

Second Vice President’s Report

Second Vice President Gerald Brown reported the following:

Abigail Johnson, CWA Local 1180 member, was appointed to the Text Validation Board by DCAS for the 2015 Administrative Manager Exam. Abigail advised that the work of the (TVB) for the exam is complete. This is an early indication that the lists for the exam will be published in the not-so-distant future. On behalf of Local 1181, we thank Abigail Johnson for her service on the Text Validation Board.

There are three important election days remain- ing in NYS for 2016: Congressional Primary on June 28, Primary on September 13, and the most important of all — the General Election on November 8.

CWA Local 1180’s Work Place Literacy Program has announced its course offerings for Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 semesters. The list of courses with registration information can be found on our website at www.cwa1180.org.

The Home Ownership Workshop on May 14 was a great success. Facilitators from Wells Far- go covered every aspect of Home Ownership. The attorney from Mirkin and Gordon handled all legal questions involving home ownership. The workshops’ participants gained a wealth of knowledge and asked very important questions during the sessions.

CWA Local 1180 was successful in helping the Murphy Institute obtain a very sizable grant from the NYC Council. This year’s grant totaled $350,000. We thank everyone who participated in making this possible.

CWA Local 1180 has renewed its commitment in attending the NYC Civil Service Merit Council meetings to ensure they continue to participate in the weekly meetings convene in September 2016.

A complete listing of the Local’s 2016 endorse- ments for the New York State Legislature (As- sembly and Senate), in addition to that for the New York City Council Special election, can be found at our website.

The New York City Central Labor Council’s Labor Day Parade will be on Saturday, September 10, 2016. Complete details to follow.

Motion was duly made, seconded, and carried to accept the Second Vice President’s Report.

Secretary-Treasurer’s Report

Secretary-Treasurer Gloria Middleton presented the Transaction Detail Report for May 2016, as well as the Check Register. She advised that the T.D. checking account has a balance of $1,284,425.77 as of C.O.B. June 21, 2016. The expenses will be redeployed to better service the homeless.

The James Zadroga 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund Update

The James Zadroga 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund and subsequent Re-authorization Act were enacted to provide a mechanism to compensate those who lost their lives in the ter- rorist attacks of September 11, 2001, or those involved with the rescue and clean-up efforts that occurred from that date until May of the following year. According to the new rules, the dead- line to register for claims related to traumatic injuries, cancers, or pulmo- nary disease under the VCF is no later than December 18, 2020 as long as the verification that the illness was related to 9/11 occurred after October 4, 2011. For particular types of illnesses and/or 911 related deaths, there may be earlier deadlines.

Eligible claimants, as defined by the Act, are limited to individuals present at a 9/11 crash site at the time of or in the immediate aftermath of the 175- and 175-related aircraft crashes and who suffered physical harm as a direct result of the crashes or the rescue and recovery efforts or debris removal; personal representatives of deceased individu- als on board American Airlines flights 11 and 77 or United Airlines flights 93 and 175; and personal representatives of individuals who were present at a 9/11 crash site at the time of, or in the immediate aftermath of, the crashes and who died as a direct result of the attacks or the debris removal.

Benjamin-Darge Denise Gilliam has been elected the official Chair of the CWA Local 1180 Women’s Committee.

Member-at-Large Hazel O. Worley advised that the CWA Local 1180 Annual Pakistan tickets go on sale July 11, 2016. Adults will be $40 and chil- dren $25.

Member-at-Large Hilary Bloomfield attended the North Eastern Bronx Democratic Club Meet- ing with NYS Comptroller Tom DiNapoli on Sat- urday, June 4, 2016. Additionally, she attended the Clinton/Bloomberg Heritage celebration, accom- panied by Helen S. James and Maudsey Abdul, hosted by NYS Comptroller Thomas P DiNapoli and advisors to Bloomberg.

Member-at-Large Denise Gilliam asked the Board’s approval for purchasing T-shirts for Women’s Committee members to wear for the Health and Wellness Fair on the first Saturday in October. She also requested the Board’s approval to purchase T-shirts for the Making Strides for Breast Cancer Walk. She will reach out to the vendor for prices.

The next Executive Board Meeting is scheduled for July 19, 2016.

Motion was duly made, seconded and carried to adjourn at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lourdes Acededo

Recording Secretary

9/11 Victim Compensation Fund Update

The James Zadroga 9/11 Victim Compen- sation Fund and subsequent Re-authorization Act were enacted to provide a mechanism to compensate those who lost their lives in the ter- rorist attacks of September 11, 2001, or those involved with the rescue and clean-up efforts that occurred from that date until May of the following year. According to the new rules, the dead- line to register for claims related to traumatic injuries, cancers, or pulmo- nary disease under the VCF is no later than December 18, 2020 as long as the verification that the illness was related to 9/11 occurred after October 4, 2011. For particular types of illnesses and/or 911 related deaths, there may be earlier deadlines.

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<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
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<td>Melywn Arroyo</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Linda Barbarino</td>
<td>Fire Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Brady</td>
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<td>Esther Brown</td>
<td>Dept. of Health &amp; Mental Hygiene</td>
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<td>Francine Bruno</td>
<td>Dept. of Sanitation</td>
<td>6/23/2016</td>
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<td>Barbara Cassar</td>
<td>Dept. of Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laura Chestnut</td>
<td>Dept. of City Planning</td>
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<td>Richard Concessi</td>
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<td>Mary Cozzocrea</td>
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<td>Ernestine David</td>
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<td>Brooklyn Borough President</td>
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<td>Esther Wallach</td>
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<td>Edythe Zaretsky</td>
<td>Dept. of General Services</td>
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A claimant can file a claim online through a form on the VCF website at [www.claims.vcf.gov](http://www.claims.vcf.gov) and follow the instructions in the document checklist, which can be found at [www.vcf.gov/pdf/VCFClaimForm-DocumentChecklist.pdf](http://www.vcf.gov/pdf/VCFClaimForm-DocumentChecklist.pdf). Attorneys at Mirkin & Gordon, through the Union’s legal services program, are available to assist CWA 1180 members who feel they might have a valid claim. For more detailed information, visit the CWA Local 1180 benefits section of the website at [www.cwa1180.org](http://www.cwa1180.org).
ELECTION DAY MISHAPS & WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT VOTING

The late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said that “a voteless people is a powerless people.” When we vote, we are telling elected officials and lawmakers how we feel about public safety, social security, health care, education and other important issues. Voting is a chance to make a difference in our own lives and the world.

But what happens when something goes wrong at the polls when you go to vote? It’s not like mishaps haven’t occurred before. Those of us old enough to remember the Gore vs. Bush Florida hanging chads debacle that forced the Supreme Court to resolve the dispute before a winner could officially be declared, can attest to this. And more recently, earlier this year the Brooklyn Board of Elections revealed that it had purged more than 100,000 voters from the polls shortly before a major primary election. There were also reports of ballot shortages and polling places not open.

One of the reasons for so much chaos and confusion exists in this state is that by the end of this year, New Yorkers will have gone to the polls four times between the Presidential primary, and primaries for Congress, the State Legislature and local races, and the general election. “The very fact that our voting system is so disorganized as to have four separate elections within a seven-month period speaks loudly about the inefficiency and potential for fraud,” said one political observer.

What do voters do if they get to the polls and their names are missing from the registration books? It could just be as simple as signing in at the wrong table so check with the information clerk at your polling place who will look up your address and give you the correct ED/AD table to vote at. Other reasons your name might be missing from the books are that you haven’t voted in the last four years, you had a change of address or a name change, or you changed your party affiliation. Your name also could be missing from the sign-in books. It could just be as simple as signing in at the wrong table so check with the information clerk at your polling place who will look up your address and give you the correct ED/AD table to vote at.

Election Day mishaps & what you need to know about voting

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Not everyone is available to vote on Election Day, however. Some are stationed overseas in the military, some have medical emergencies, are ill or disabled, and some have planned vacations for example. In these and other cases, you can vote by absentee ballot, which is a printed ballot marked by an absent voter, sealed in a special envelope, and mailed to the Board of Elections. Absentee ballot applications can be obtained online at the Board of Elections website or in person. The time frame for requesting an absentee ballot is 30 days before the election and it must be returned to the BOE seven days before the election. Last day to postmark absentee ballots for the 2016 General Election is November 7.

Even if you have a criminal record you can vote as long as you are not currently in prison for a felony conviction. The Board of Elections does not remove your name from the voting rolls if you are serving time in jail for a misdemeanor or are currently out of jail on probation. However, if you have been convicted of a felony and currently serving time in prison, you cannot vote. If you are currently on parole for a felony conviction, you can apply for a certificate of good conduct that will specifically restore your voting rights.

The last day to register to vote in the upcoming November 8 General Election is Friday, October 14. Applications must be received at the Board of Elections not later than October 19.

Why Do We Always Vote On a Tuesday?

In 1865, the day of the horse and buggy, farmers needed a full day to travel to polling sites to vote. They also needed a full day to travel back home. With three days of weekly worship, that only left Tuesday and Wednesday. Since Wednesday was Market Day, Tuesday was the only day of the week to vote. Congress has kept Tuesdays as Election Day ever since.