November 7, 2017

VOTE NO ON THE NYS CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

A Constitutional Convention WILL HURT YOU.........................P. 2-5

CWA STRONG International Convention......P. 8-11

DACA The Right to Dream..........P. 17

Sample Ballot on Page 5
Who Benefits from a Convention

This “politician’s convention” would be a multi-million dollar boondoggle funded by taxpayer dollars — and would give New York political insiders and special interest groups the opportunity to change our state Constitution to benefit themselves.

Here’s who will benefit from a Constitutional Convention:

- Politicians
- The super wealthy
- Developers
- CEOs
- Anti-labor groups
- Privately-run charter schools
Who Suffers from a Convention

Here’s who will suffer from a Constitutional Convention:

- Taxpayers
- Retirees
- Organized labor
- The environment
- Conservationists
- Social Welfare program recipients
- Public school children
- Fiscal conservatives

Constitutional Convention

Will HURT YOU (& ALL New Yorkers)

While a vast number of groups interested in issues like campaign finance reform, redistricting, and term limits have spoken out in favor of a Convention, they are holding by the false assumption that the state Legislature wouldn’t touch these issues during their regularly scheduled legislative sessions. However, what they fail to realize is that it’s these same legislators who will most likely be elected as double-dipping delegates who wouldn’t touch these issues anyway.

Bottom line is that nothing positive can result from a Constitutional Convention. Nothing!

On November 7, 2017, voters will decide whether the state should convene a Constitutional Convention to redraft the state’s Constitution. The outcome could have far-reaching and devastating effects for decades. Opening up the Constitution to haphazard changes is like opening a Pandora’s Box.

The seemingly simple question put before voters every 20 years is far from innocuous. And to make matters worse, Proposition 1 on whether to hold a Constitutional Convention is on the BACK of the ballot, meaning voters must turn over the ballot in order to cast their votes.

Proposition 1 will read as follows:

“Shall there be a convention to revise the Constitution and amend the same?”

The Process of a Constitutional Convention

The Constitutional Convention is a two-year process in which delegates are elected, rules are set, amendments are proposed, and initiatives that make it to the ballot are voted on by New Yorkers.

Three delegates are elected from each state Senate district as well as 15 “at large” delegates from the rest of the state, for a total of 204 members. The 26 Senate Districts that represent New York City would elect 78 of the 204 delegates to the Convention.

Delegates are given the opportunity to discuss and propose amendments to any part of the state Constitution. All amendments proposed at a Constitutional Convention have to be approved by voters on a statewide ballot question.

The political party with the most delegates controls the Convention and makes all of the decisions regarding the Convention. They determine the rules, as well as which amendments make it to the ballot for a public vote.

A Constitutional Convention could result in minor modifications or radical changes. Since Local 1180 members and retirees rely upon the state Constitution to protect our pensions, our right to organize, and the nature of our work, we could all face major setbacks and see our futures jeopardized if a Constitutional Convention passes.

How the Two-Year Process Works:

New York’s Constitutional Convention referendum must be placed on the Nov. 7, 2017 ballot as specified in New York’s Constitution

NO CONVENTION

RATIFY

Amendment Ratified

November 7, 2017
New Yorkers vote to convene a Convention

November 6, 2018
New Yorkers elect delegates to the Convention

April 2, 2019
Convention convenes and proposes amendment(s) for popular ratification

November 2019
New Yorkers vote on every amendment proposed by the Convention

REJECT

Amendment Rejected

NO CONVENTION
A Constitutional Convention (Proposition 1) has ramifications not only for those living in New York, but for all those who have moved elsewhere as well.

Political insiders, currently elected politicians and high-powered lobbyists — those who will probably be elected as delegates — are well aware of what a great opportunity they will have to rewrite the current Constitution for their own benefit. And since they will be collecting two salaries while doing so at a Convention with no time limit, it’s what one would consider an insider’s party.

1. **IT IS A WASTE OF MONEY**
   A Constitutional Convention is projected to cost $340 million in taxpayer money and could seriously damage current benefits and protections for at least the next 20 years.

2. **IT IS A POLITICIAN’S CONVENTION**
   During the last Convention, 4 out of 5 delegates were career politicians and Albany insiders who a second taxpayer-funded salary every day during the Convention that had no time limit.

3. **THE RIGHT TO UNIONIZE**
   Workers’ rights to organize, form, and join unions at free will would be at risk.

4. **COLLECTIVE BARGAINING**

5. **PENSION PROTECTION**
   Public employee pensions are currently protected by the State Constitution, but a Convention could remove those protections. Also at risk? Workers’ Compensation, unemployment, retirement systems, and contributions.

6. **CIVIL SERVICE LAWS AND RULES**
   The current system of competitive lists and job protections as we know them could be undone. Awarding political patronage jobs instead of hiring people based on merit could become the norm.

7. **SOUND BASIC EDUCATION**
   The current Constitution guarantees children the right to a free public school education and limits the use of funding for school maintenance and establishment.

8. **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIONS**
   New York State’s Constitution has the nation’s strongest protections for “forever wild” areas in the Adirondacks and Catskills. Greedy developers could push to undo these safeguards for their own profit.

9. **SOCIAL SAFETY NET**
   The State Constitution now ensures that New York provide for its citizens in need with welfare and unemployment benefits, emergency healthcare, and homeless shelters, to name a few. All of this would be on the line with a Constitutional Convention.

10. **VOTING RIGHTS**
    Restrictions and stringencies on voting rights could be implemented with a Constitutional Convention, including diminishing polling sites and requiring government-issued identification. This would ultimately reduce the number of eligible voters.
We Don’t Need a Convention
(there is another option)

There are estimates that a 2017 Constitutional Convention could cost taxpayers $345,000,000

Luckily, there is ANOTHER WAY

The State Constitution can be amended legislatively.

Rather than holding a big, expensive party for politicians, if there are changes that can improve our lives and livelihoods, the Legislature can amend the Constitution at any time with specific proposals. In fact, there have been more than 200 amendments to the Constitution since 1894, all achieved through multiple legislative actions.

The process would involve passage of amendments through two sessions of the Legislature and then approval by voters in a future November election. This process provides more checks and balances to the amendment process, gives regular people a bigger voice in the process, guarantees a more open legislative process, and **costs taxpayers nothing**.

So why do we need to spend HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS on a Constitutional Convention party when we already have another way?

EVERY. SINGLE. VOTE. COUNTS.

Including yours. That’s why it’s EXTREMELY IMPORTANT, especially during this off election year when voter turnout is VERY LOW, to get out and vote.

PROPOSITION 1
— Constitutional Convention
is on the BACK of the ballot

PROPOSAL NUMBER ONE, A QUESTION

Constitutional Convention

Shall there be a convention to revise the Constitution and amend the same?*

PROPOSAL NUMBER TWO, AN AMENDMENT

Allowing the complete or partial forfeiture of a public officer’s pension if he or she is convicted of a certain type of felony

The proposed amendment to section 7 of Article 2 of the State Constitution would allow a court to reduce or revoke the public pension of a public officer who is convicted of a felony that has direct and actual relationship to the performance of the public officer’s existing duties.
# 2017 General Election Endorsements

**Tuesday, November 7, 2017**

## CITYWIDE

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## BOROUGHWIDE

### District Attorney

- **Bronx**: Darcel Clark (Bronx)
- **Brooklyn**: Eric Gonzalez (Brooklyn), Cy Vance (Manhattan), Richard Brown (Queens)
- **Manhattan**: Scott Stringer
- **Queens**: Melinda Katz (Queens)

### Borough President

- **Bronx**: Ruben Diaz, Jr. (Bronx)
- **Brooklyn**: Eric Adams (Brooklyn), Gale Brewer (Manhattan)
- **Manhattan**: Melinda Katz (Queens)
- **Queens**: Melinda Katz (Queens)

## NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL

### Manhattan

- **District 1**: Margaret S. Chin
- **District 2**: Carlina Rivera
- **District 3**: Corey Johnson
- **District 4**: Keith Powers
- **District 5**: Ben Kallos
- **District 6**: Helen Rosenthal
- **District 7**: Mark Levine
- **District 8**: Diana Ayala
- **District 9**: Bill Perkins
- **District 10**: Ydanis Rodriguez

### Bronx

- **District 11**: Andrew Cohen
- **District 12**: Andy King
- **District 13**: Mark Gjonaj
- **District 14**: Fernando Cabrera
- **District 15**: Ritchie J. Torres
- **District 16**: Vanessa Gibson
- **District 17**: Rafael Salamanca, Jr.

### Queens

- **District 19**: Paul Vallone
- **District 20**: Peter Koo
- **District 21**: Francisco Moya
- **District 22**: Costa Constantinides
- **District 23**: Barry Grodenchik
- **District 24**: Rory L. Lancman
- **District 25**: Daniel Dromm
- **District 26**: James Van Bramer
- **District 27**: I. Daneek Miller
- **District 28**: Adrienne Adams
- **District 29**: Karen Koslowitz
- **District 30**: Elizabeth S. Crowley
- **District 31**: Donovan J. Richards

### Brooklyn

- **District 33**: Stephen T. Levin
- **District 34**: Antonio Reynoso
- **District 35**: Laurie A. Cumbo
- **District 36**: Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.
- **District 37**: Rafael L. Espinal, Jr.
- **District 38**: Carlos Menchaca
- **District 39**: Brad Lander
- **District 40**: Matthieu Eugene
- **District 41**: Alicka Samuel
- **District 42**: Inez Barron
- **District 43**: Justin Brannan
- **District 44**: Jumaane D. Williams
- **District 45**: Alan N. Maisel
- **District 46**: Mark Treyger
- **District 47**: Chaim Deutsch

### Staten Island

- **District 49**: Deborah Rose
We Must Build a Movement to Stop This Insane Man

I have been writing this column since 1979 and in all that time, I have never been as fearful for our nation as I am today. We are more of a divided country than at any time in recent history. The right has moved more to the right, and the left more to the left, leaving very few lingering in the middle. Racism and hate and terrorism in all forms seem to be at an all-time high. Police vs. African Americans. White nationalists vs. counter protesters. Crazed gunmen going on rampant shooting sprees.

And a president who doesn’t inspire much hope for change. In fact, a president who himself has contributed significantly to the problem at hand.

Even numerous respected psychiatrists have put their professional reputations on the line and declared #45 unfit to serve as our nation’s leader. The job of a president is to inspire, to lead, to bring about positive change, to make progress — not to point fingers, to tweet, to throw paper towels into a crowd because of the color of their skin. Far too many Jews feel the rise of anti-Semitism. Far too many Americans panic about crazed lunatics driving cars into innocent crowds of people or psychotic gunmen rampantly shooting into a country music concert and killing almost 60.

And who is stepping up to do something to evoke change? Certainly not #45, the supposed commander in chief, the leader of the free world. And for lack of any real leadership at this moment, it will be up to us, the people, to take charge.

In addition to taking a stance by kneeling during the National Anthem, we must stand up tall and fight back. We must evoke our own change or we can’t complain. If we don’t become the change we want to see, then we have no one to blame but ourselves.

Let’s face it, we cannot count on #45. He has proven that time and again.

After Charlottesville, he held a news conference at which he blamed the violence on both sides of the conflict, equating the white supremacists on one side with the “alt-left” on the other. Try telling the mother of Heather Heyer innocently killed that day that “I think there is blame on both sides,” which #45 did at his press conference.

And how could we overlook his comments after Hurricane Maria wiped out Puerto Rico. “Sixteen people certified – 16 people versus in the thousands,” Trump said during a briefing, and added that while “every death is a horror,” the devastation has not been “a real catastrophe” on the same scale of Hurricane Katrina, which killed 1,800 people in New Orleans.

Is he really saying that losing 16 lives is not a real catastrophe? Losing just one life is a real catastrophe in my mind.

And of course, this statement takes the real catastrophe? Losing just one life is a real catastrophe in my mind.

And of course, this statement takes the cake, at least for now until he comes up with something more asinine. Trump quipped: “Now I hate to tell you, Puerto Rico, but you’ve thrown our budget a little out of whack, but you’re throwing our budget a little out of whack because we’ve spent a lot of money on Puerto Rico.” Well, why shouldn’t we spend the same amount of money and time and effort to help Puerto Rico rebuild that we did to help Houston or New Orleans or Florida? I have news for our president — Puerto Ricans are American citizens by birth.


So why did #45 think it was appropriate to toss paper towels into the crowds as a means of consoling those American citizens who have lost everything instead of giving a hug or a warm handshake or some other heartfelt measure as former President Obama and all recent presidents before him did when they visited rampaged areas post devastation? Does he not consider Puerto Ricans the same as Texans or Floridians?

We need an organized movement that will bring our nation to its senses. Organized workers and citizens scare the oligarchs because when we are organized, we have the power to demand and achieve justice. It’s time we do it and not talk about it.

Trump’s nationalism fits the Republican agenda like a glove. On the surface, he’s an unconventional populist who threatens foreign trading partners on behalf of “the forgotten man and woman.” In reality, his tax-cut package, loaded with a conventional trickle-down agenda such as repeal of the estate tax and the alternative minimum tax, is not at all about working men and women; it solely serves the 1% donor class. This is not the type of movement we need to heal our country. We need unity. We need solidarity. We need to take action.

We need every single member to get involved. Organizing and taking an active role are the future of all unions.

To quote Theodore Roosevelt: “Patriotism means to stand by the country. It does not mean to stand by the president or any other public official, save exactly to the degree in which he himself stands by the country. It is patriotic to support him insofar as he efficiently serves the country. It is unpatriotic not to oppose him to the exact extent that by inefficiency or otherwise he fails in his duty to stand by the country. In either event, it is unpatriotic not to tell the truth, whether about the president or anyone else.” I certainly do not want to be labeled as unpatriotic so let me tell the truth. #45 is anti labor. He is doing nothing to unite our country and he has done nothing to help the working, middle class. That leaves us no other choice but to help ourselves.
More than 2,500 CWA delegates from nearly 400 locals from across the United States, Canada, and Puerto Rico attending the 76th Biannual International Convention were testament to the phrase “CWA STRONG.”

The theme of this year’s convention echoed throughout the myriad of meetings, as delegates gathered en masse as well as in smaller District meetings.

CWA President Chris Shelton, in his opening remarks, said that the labor movement is under intensifying attacks and that locals must continue to rise up and fight back.

“Our work is cut out for us. But let me tell you this — I am 100 percent confident that we are up to the task. I know what CWA is made of. I know that every one of you will do whatever we have to do to save our union and to save our labor movement. I know that we are CWA STRONG and that nothing, nothing can break us!”

Shelton outlined the CWA STRONG program and noted that locals already are putting this plan into action. “Step 1 for CWA STRONG is increasing membership levels. Step 2 is more mobilization and member engagement. Across this union we must renew our commitment to building our union from the bottom up. At the same time, we must continue to reach out to our community allies who will stand with us against our enemies. A stronger CWA means a stronger foundation for a progressive movement. Locals, large and small, are working hard to sign up agency fee payers and non-members in both the public and private sectors.”

Local 1180 President Arthur Cheliotes echoed those sentiments.

“Unions are under attack. Labor is under attack. We were able to dodge a few bullets in the last year or so, like with the death of Supreme Court Justice Scalia, but we have to be more diligent than ever,” Cheliotes said. “There is a new case most likely coming before the Court that could change the way all unions do business going forward. We have to stay on top of it and be prepared. We need to be on the offense, not the defense.”

Shelton said that the attack on labor is also an attack on working people, on democracy itself, and on the rights of working people to have a voice.

“The union movement is all that stands in the way of every corporate bully imposing tyranny in the work-
place. Without unions, the workplace is little better than a fascist dictatorship, with the bosses free to do whatever they want, whenever they want. And it’s not just that unions give workers a voice in the workplace. The labor movement is the key to a democratic society. Unions give regular people a collective voice in the political decision-making process which determines the quality of all of our lives,” Shelton said.

He said that since corporate America does not want the concerns of regular people to get in its way, it is laser-focused on destroying the labor movement.

“The attacks on the labor movement are intensifying. There is an entrenched anti-labor majority on the Supreme Court. Our political system is drenched in corporate money. Republicans have gerrymandered their way to power in State Houses across the country,” he said.

Cheliotes said the push by locals to sign up agency-fee payers has intensified in the wake of the upcoming Janus case before the Supreme Court. Statewide, CWA public sector membership has gone from slightly more than 70 percent to just under 80 percent. State and local government locals are determined to get to 90 percent before the Supreme Court eliminates agency fee payers in the public sector.

Numerous resolutions were tackled during the Convention as well, including one on Islamophobia. The CWA Policy on Discrimination, embedded in the Union Constitution, affirms the union’s opposition to all forms of discrimination, including discrimination based on race,
“Unions are under attack. Labor is under attack. We were able to dodge a few bullets in the last year or so, like with the death of Supreme Court Justice Scalia, but we have to be more diligent than ever. There is a new case most likely coming before the Court that could change the way all unions do business going forward. We have to stay on top of it and be prepared. We need to be on the offense, not the defense.”

CWA STRONG

color, gender, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or national origin. The resolution reaffirms CWA’s commitment to dignity and respect for all people, fighting against discrimination in all its forms, including the targeting of people of the Islamic faith.

Secretary-Treasurer Gloria Middleton addressed all CWAers, with Local 1180 members proudly standing behind her in solidarity. “We cannot tolerate Islamophobia or any other type of discrimination in this country any more. We cannot ban people from entering this country based on a certain religion. It is against everything this country was built on,” Middleton said. “Racism in any form is unjust.”

And that includes discrimination against women and minorities, as Cheliotes talked about when he stood at the podium.

“Women and minorities, with the help of the union, worked their way up the ranks and they became managers. But as managers, they were treated like dirt. And they said ‘Wait a minute. we need a union to represent us because the work we’re doing isn’t managerial!’ It took us a decade, but we won the right to represent them, and then we began to look at how they were being paid. As we looked at that, we saw discrimination,” Cheliotes said. “Organized labor can make a difference for women.”

CWA has a lot to be proud of. Cheliotes said that 1180 is enhancing its organizing, political, and legislative campaigns. The Union is working diligently to sign up agency fee payers. Local 1180 has greatly improved its member outreach and communications, using 2017 technology to keep members informed via social media outlets. “We are CWA STRONG and we are Local 1180 strong, but our day-to-day fight continues.”
Building membership levels is the foundation of CWA STRONG. Community, in the streets, at the ballot box, from the bottom up. No bystanders. A working person must decide which side are you on? Are you a union neutral. To paraphrase the old union song, in times like these, every war is at war — a war to save the labor movement. In a war, there are no winners. We work we are doing. But Brothers and Sisters, let’s not kid ourselves. We summed it up by saying, “I am proud of our union. I am proud of all the work we are doing.”

And as President Shelton brought his opening remarks to a close, he summed it up by saying, “I am proud of our union. I am proud of all the work we are doing. But Brothers and Sisters, let’s not kid ourselves. We are at war — a war to save the labor movement. In a war, there are no neutrals. To paraphrase the old union song, in times like these, every working person must decide which side are you on? Are you a union activist, a union militant, or are you a scab for the bosses? No middle ground. No bystanders.”

That means we must build CWA STRONG, in every workplace, in every community, in the streets, at the ballot box, from the bottom up. Building membership levels is the foundation of CWA STRONG.

### RESOLUTIONS APPROVED AT THE 2017 CWA CONVENTION

Convention delegates voted on numerous resolutions, but not all passed. The following are those members voted in favor of:

#### Resolution 76A-17-01 CWA STRONG

CWA STRONG is a far-reaching plan to move every member to action, with the goal of strengthening our union at all levels and expanding our capacity to survive and fight back. Locals are developing systematic plans to talk with and sign up non-members, attend internal organizing training, recruit new stewards, participate in political boot camps, and much more. We must strengthen organizing committees and engage in deeper one-on-one conversations in every workplace, committing to listening and involving members at the center of everything we do. This resolution lists multiple means by which unions will work toward reaching a goal of signing up 40,000 non members before the next Convention.

#### Resolution 76A-17-02 A New NAFTA? Working Families Are Watching

The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) that was supposed to create 200,000 new jobs, instead became more than 900,000 jobs lost. NAFTA has been a disaster for working people in Canada, Mexico, and the United States. CWA will work with coalition partners from the environmental, human rights, labor, faith and consumer rights communities to spotlight the harm that NAFTA has caused to members and millions of people in all three countries and to ensure that progressive communities in all three countries remain united in our demands and efforts to influence the NAFTA renegotiation and ensure it addresses all our concerns.

#### Resolution 76A-17-03 Call Center Offshoring and Outsourcing

CWA is under attack as large corporations increasingly outsource union call center jobs. Even while jobs are leaving the U.S., companies clearly see the value of a U.S.-based workforce for the vital role of customer interaction. CWA will share information among our leadership and bargaining teams about strategies to strengthen existing job protections and prevent our employers from shifting an increasing share of customer service work to low-wage vendors, and will continue to organize in the call center sector when it is strategic and builds power.

#### Resolution 76A-17-04 Workers’ Rights are Human Rights: The Fight Forward

In response to the current climate of deep divisions along racial and socio-economic lines, CWA STRONG will incorporate the Fight Forward program, a Human Rights Committee initiative, founded on the belief that human rights can be used as an instrument to bridge division. This program will focus on building power through local activism and mobilization. CWA Districts and locals will redeedicate themselves to building and supporting active Human Rights Committees, including the Women’s Committee and the Civil Rights and Equity Committee, in every Local.

#### Resolution 76A-17-05 A Fair Tax and Budget Program for Working People

Corporate America and Wall Street financiers have used the tax code and government budget process to enrich themselves at the expense of millions of working families and communities. These tax proposals come in the context of a federal tax system in which everyday working Americans pay taxes on their income every week, yet many of the wealthiest Americans, corporate executives, and Wall Street bankers pay little or no tax at all. CWA supports equitable tax policies that make the wealthy and corporations pay their fair share in order to provide adequate resources to support the public investments necessary to build a strong economy, vibrant communities, and a good quality of life for all Americans. CWA opposes tax plans in Congress, as well as at the state and local levels, that would reduce tax rates on corporations, the financial industry, and the wealthy.

#### Resolution 76A-17-06 CWA Opposition to Islamophobia

Islamophobia serves as a structural force in American politics to divide people one against another and to promote violence and oppression that violates the core values of our nation. CWA reaffirms our commitment to dignity and respect for all people. We will fight against discrimination in all its forms, including the targeting of people of the Islamic faith and we will act in defense of and solidarity with those targeted by Islamophobia in our union, our workplaces, and our communities.

#### Resolution 76A-17-07 Defend the Right to Report & The People’s Right to Know

Journalists are facing unprecedented attacks, including physical assault, arrest, and restrictions on access to information. These attacks are in conjunction with an all-out effort to demonize and discredit journalists and the truth they seek to tell. The attacks threaten the very foundation of our democracy. With this resolution, CWA supports the media sectors’ efforts to fight the attacks on journalists and the First Amendment, and supports national and state legislation that would make it a felony to assault journalists, including reporters, photographers, and videographers, and supports expansion of state shield laws. CWA also supports passage and enforcement of, and adherence to, Freedom of Information laws at the federal, state, and municipal levels.
Constitutional Convention Proposition 1: A Major 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 proposition. While many New Yorkers can tell you they have seen a proposition on at least one Election Day ballot, the majority cannot tell you what a proposition is or why it is important.

A proposition is a general vote by the electorate on a single, political question that has been referred to them for a direct decision.

Voting for a Constitutional Convention could negatively change the dollar amount we plan to receive on retirement. The one sure way to avoid this is to VOTE NO for the Constitutional Convention on the BACK of the ballot.

Constitutional Convention on the BACK of the ballot.

Another concern for unions should a Constitutional Convention become reality is the Triborough Agreement, which states that when a collectively bargained contract expires, its terms will remain in effect until a new contract is ratified. With a Constitutional Convention, this Agreement is at serious risk of being changed, or worse yet eliminated. This would mean the employer could pay salary and benefits at their own will until a new contract is signed. We will have no say in our salaries and no protections until a new agreement is reached, and this could take years.

Without the protections of the Triborough Agreement, the City would be in no rush to reach a new deal as worker salaries could randomly be set to any amount.

We have the power to make sure this does not happen. We have the power to protect ourselves. We have the power to do something, but only if we all go VOTE NO on November 7.

Stopping a Constitutional Convention will require team work. Organized labor has put forth a huge united effort in the past several months. We have spoken about the dangers of a Convention, we have emailed information to our members, we have posted on our website (www.cwa1180.org) and on our Facebook page.

If you are still confused for any reason about why you need to VOTE NO, please go to the union’s website or read the stories on pages 2-5 of this newsletter. Right at the top of the website’s home page are multiple links to fliers and videos we have assembled with all the information. You can also visit a special website we created specifically about the Constitutional Convention. That site is http://www.reddoorcreativeny.com/no2concon/.

There can’t be any holds barred. There is no rerun here. If the naysayers are stronger than the guardians of the working class, then we will have lost the war.

With the current climate of resentment toward public employees and their pensions, there is never a better time than now to get out and vote — and be sure to VOTE NO — in order to protect our interests.

If you don’t vote or you vote in favor, you are allowing a Constitutional Convention that will give well-funded special interests the ability to control a process that can negatively impact our rights, including the right to organize, the right to join a union, and the rights of injured workers. Our rights are at risk because certain politicians and special interests groups could vote to change them. This will be a tough fight, but one we can win. As I see it, there are only two courses of action. First, you can sit back and do nothing, which in reality, is not really an option. Or two, you can take just a few minutes from your day and GO VOTE. By doing so, you will be joining hundreds of thousands of other New Yorkers who want to protect their futures and the futures of upcoming generations.

If you sit back and don’t vote, you are not only harming yourself, you are harming countless others. Bottom line is, we are all in this together.

In fact, ALL New Yorkers, whether or not a union member, are in this together. There is so much about a Constitutional Convention that applies to everyone, least of which is the $340 million bill to run the Convention that taxpayers will be responsible for if this Proposition is approved. That’s $340 million that could be better spent elsewhere.

A recent poll shows support for holding a Constitutional Convention is sliding, as the percentage of voters who say they’ve heard about the Convention process increases. After all, knowledge is power.

Organized labor is one of the most Convention-averse groups of voters because we have the most to lose. CWA, along with many other unions of all sizes, have banded together to defeat this proposition. Local 1180 has been out in the forefront, and we will stay there until November 7 has come and gone.

Since this is a very low voter turnout year, every single vote counts. We only have one chance to get this right, so let’s get it right together on Tuesday, November 7.
Disability Pride Rocks NYC for Health Care, Access

By Edward M. Yood, Co-Chair
Committee on People with Disabilities

More than 7,500 people with disabilities, along with their families, caregivers, friends and allies, marched, rolled, rode and scooted in a glorious New York City Disability Pride Parade on July 9. They were celebrating the anniversary of the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act on July 26, 1990. They were also proudly and firmly opposing threatened government denial of support for access and health care. The looming budget cuts proposed in the U.S. Congress would decimate Medicaid, often a lifeline for elderly and disabled people. Loss of funding for needed services would mean a death sentence for untold numbers.

More than 140 organizations participated in this march, including disability rights and service/provider organizations. This was the third consecutive year that Local 1180 participated in the Disability Pride Parade since its revival in 2015 with a contingent of more than 20 members from the Local's Committee on People with Disabilities. This year CWA Local 1180 again hosted Disability Pride outreach meetings at our headquarters and since October 2016, has held a seat on the NYC Disability Pride Committee Executive Board.

African American Day Parade

Dozens of Local 1180 members marched in this year’s African American Day Parade on September 16 that marks unique culture, heritage, and legacy. The Parade is the most renowned African American parade in the country, with the largest cross-section of participants, and drew an estimated 900,000 attendees along the parade route. More than 200 organizations from 12 states and many countries participated in this year’s event.

Supporting Councilmember Cumbo

New York City Councilmember Laurie Cumbo held her campaign kick off event at her headquarters in Brooklyn. Cumbo has been a great supporter of the labor movement and Local 1180, particularly in our EEOC battle. Deborah Valentin, Local 1180 Organizing Coordinator, Helen S. Jarrett, Local 1180 Mobilization Coordinator, and Samantha Benton, Local 1180 member, attended the event to pledge the union’s support. Pictured from left are Valentin, Cumbo, and Jarrett.
MEMBERS IN ACTION

Retiree Division Annual Picnic

By Carole Silverman, Local 1180 Retiree

On a bright summer day in August, eight buses of retired members, their families, and friends came out for the annual picnic at Black Bear Lake in Central New Jersey. Lots of activities abound with something for everyone — swimming, basketball, pedal boats, sports, arts and crafts, and the ever-popular Bingo. The winners received great gifts, and a delicious, gourmet buffet was served all day. There were plenty of desserts, popcorn, ice cream, sodas and wine. Many retirees “got down” on the lawn for line dancing and the electric slide, bringing smiles and applause. Retirees had positive thoughts about being at the picnic. Deloris Buffaloe, who retired seven years ago from NYPD, said she came to get away from the hustle and bustle of urban living and to enjoy fun in the sun, relaxing, socializing, eating delicious food and drink, and playing games. Mary Guest, retired 10 years ago from the Board of Education, said she loves to attend the Annual Retiree Picnic as it gives her lots of joy. She especially loves the Local 1180 Retiree Division for the wonderful benefits and activities they offer. This Annual Picnic is one of the many exciting activities the Retiree Division offers in order to keep all retirees active, alert, and forever young.

EEO Case Settlement UPDATE

Every month at the Union’s general membership meeting, members are brought up to date on the status of the EEOC case, and are given a chance to ask questions. For those members who do not or cannot attend a meeting, President Arthur Cheliotes provides the following update:

On July 6, 2017, the attorneys for both Local 1180 and the City appeared before the Federal Judge assigned to this case with the settlement proposal reached several months ago.

The Judge wanted changes incorporated into the settlement that would more broadly distribute the funds available. The Union and City agreed to meet the Judge’s requirement by recalculating the payments.

“The City promised to provide the Union with the data needed by the end of July, yet we are still waiting,” Cheliotes said. “We had a conference call in early October with the City and the Judge gave them two more weeks to provide the information. It is highly unfortunate that we have come to this point, but as always, Local 1180 is doing what is in the best interest of the members. As with any legal matter, we are restricted in how much detail of an ongoing case can be divulged, but our members should be aware that we are doing everything we can to get a settlement approved as quickly as possible.”

For members who want to become more familiar with the EEO case, an in-depth article ran in the April-June 2017 issue of the Communique, which can be found on the homepage of the Local 1180 website at www.cwa1180.org.

Cheliotes said that this case is a prime example of why members need to understand that elections and how you vote do have consequences. When Donald Trump was elected as president, Local 1180 knew he would not be good for the EEO case. His stance on labor and word of who he was appointing to the U.S. Attorneys Office were not in labor’s favor.

“He said it is the U.S. Attorney General’s office that would have to go into federal court to pursue the EEOC’s determination, and the Union did not foresee a positive outcome with this option.”

As the case progresses, Local 1180 will notify members immediately via the usual routes, including email blasts, social media, website, and the membership meetings.
New York City’s hardworking men and women — including those from CWA Local 1180 — came together in solidarity for this year’s Labor Day Parade on September 9. The streets of Manhattan were lined with spectators as thousands of union leaders, members, friends, and family proudly stood together to commemorate the day. The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City. In 1884, the first Monday in September was selected as the holiday to celebrate a “workingmen’s holiday” on that date. The idea spread with the growth of labor organizations, and in 1885 Labor Day was celebrated in many industrial centers of the country. “The labor movement makes tremendous contributions to New York City, and in essence is the real backbone. Without our contributions on a daily basis, the City would cease to function. The annual parade gives all unions a chance to come together as one large group and show our strength,” said 1180 President Arthur Cheliotes.

Union Marches in Labor Day Parade

about our members

- Congratulations to Second Vice President Gerald Brown on being elected as First Vice President of the CWA International Minority Caucus.
- Condolences to Denise Paul, ACS Shop Steward, on the loss of her mother Ethel Paul on July 15, 2017.
- Condolences to the family of DCAS retiree Joseph “Joe” Johnson who passed away on July 16, 2017.
- Condolences to Geraldine Key (Retired 2011, PAA, Kings County District Attorney’s Office) on the death of her mother Barbara Key on July 25, 2017, at the age of 82. Barbara was a retired PAA from the Department of Social Services. She retired at 65 years old after more than 30 years in this title. Barbara began with the City right out of high school. She leaves behind four children, six grandchildren, and five great grandchildren.
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NEW SHOP STEWARD

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Congratulations to Shop Stewards elected since April 2017

- Rose Mary Algerio, Department of Transportation, 4/25/2017
- Fitz-Arthur Brown, Department of Transportation, 4/25/2017
- Earlene Powell, Department of Transportation, 4/25/2017
- Angela Greaves, Department of Probation, 5/19/2017
- Crystal Copeland, NYPD, 6/13/2017
- Imtiaz Abdul, HRA/MIS, 7/3/2017
- Crystal Johnson, NYPD, 7/11/2017
- Jennson Casimir, HRA, 7/13/2017
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CWA Local 1180 members, their families, and friends turned out for the Union's annual picnic on September 2 at the famous Holiday Hill in Cheshire, CT. This all-day event was sponsored by the Local and coordinated by Hazel O. Worley. "This year's picnic was another opportunity for our active and retired members to come together and enjoy some game time and shake off some of the good food that was served all day on the dance floor. The excitement displayed on the faces of the kids throughout the day was priceless," Worley said. 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 making this event a success once again."

"A special note of thanks to Local 1180 support staff for their assistance in selling tickets for the Local's annual picnic. I appreciate all the time you put into making the day such a pleasurable one. It would not have been successful without your involvement. It's due to our dedication and teamwork that we received so many accolades from members and their families. Kudos to each one of you for rising to the task," Worley said.

Bus Captains: Secretary-Treasurer Gloria Middleton, members Dareese Frierson and Regina Kelly, 1st Vice President Gina Strickland, 1180 staff member Jennifer Callender, Executive Board member Debra Paylor, Executive Board member & Picnic Coordinator Hazel O. Worley, members Quinella Williams, Bruce Smith, and Virginia Johnson-Conway, President Arthur Cheliotes, Executive Board member Denise Gilmans, member Carol Griffith, Executive Board member/Staff Representative Robin Blair-Batte, 1180 Retiree Division staff member Linda Hogan, and Mobilization Coordinator Helen S. Jarrett.

Thanks also to the bus captains not pictured: members Tamika Paul, Helena Crump, Tracey Harrington, (retiree) Veronica Glasgow, and Denise Gibson, retired member Beverline Parks, and Executive Board members Lenora Smith and Hilary Bloomfield.

1180's members, family and friend getting their stepping on!

Save the Date: 2018 Picnic September 1, 2018
For 800,000 young people who grew up on America soil, the dream of a better life might be just that — a dream. They were brought to this country illegally as children by parents fleeing other countries who wanted more for themselves and their families. They have been raised as American as Americans themselves. The question is whether they will be allowed to continue living the dream of an American life, or they and their families will be deported.

These children, and possibly hundreds of thousands more, are referred to as Dreamers under a program called the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, created by former President Obama through a 2012 executive order that has allowed them to remain in the country.

But enrollment in the DACA program is not automatic; immigrants must apply. Those who did were at least temporarily shielded from deportation. They also got temporary Social Security numbers and two-year work permits. To qualify, they had to have arrived in the U.S. before 2007 (at 16 years old, or younger), been 30 or younger in 2012, and either have a high-school degree or be enrolled in school or a similar educational program. DACA recipients can live and work legally in the U.S. for renewable two-year periods.

Immigration rights advocates have said up to 200,000 more have sought DACA protection since Donald Trump became president. Some experts have said the program could end up covering 1.3 million young people if allowed to continue. Requests for renewals are reportedly being filed at the rate of about 8,000 a week.

DACA was a compromise created by the Obama administration after Congress failed to pass the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act. DREAM would have offered those who came to the U.S. illegally as children the opportunity to potentially gain permanent legal residency. The act was first introduced in August 2001 and has resurfaced several times, always failing to get through Congress.

But all that might change thanks to Commander in Chief #45, whose intention is to “wind down” the government program. It is an initiative being intensely debated across the country.

Communications Workers of America (CWA) denounced Trump’s decision as cruel and mean-spirited. “These young people were brought here by their parents at a very young age. They know no other home than the United States, and have made productive, successful lives here, contributing to their communities and looking to be full participants in our nation. The United States is their home country,” CWA wrote in a statement.

Dreamers have attended American schools and learned the language and way of life. Many contribute toward their families, their communities, and the U.S. economy. Repealing DACA would have negative consequences for the schools, hospitals, tech firms, courts, and community organizations at which a large number of Dreamers now, or will, work.

Democrats and Republicans, including the Republican leadership, have urged the President not to eliminate DACA. It’s now up to Congress to focus on passing adequate and appropriate legislation. While DACA is not a perfect policy, it has provided a significant boost to a large number of young people. “Ending this program would hurt the lives of thousands of people in a cruel fashion and serves no purpose,” said Gloria Middleton, Local 1180 Secretary-Treasurer. “CWA strongly believes that any changes to the program should not have a negative impact on children or their families. The Trump administration has failed a moral test in trying to end DACA.”

When Obama announced his intention to expand DACA to cover additional immigrants, multiple states immediately sued to prevent the expansion, which was ultimately blocked by the courts. Fast forward to the Trump Administration that on September 5, 2017, rescinded the program. However, full implementation of the rescission was delayed six months to give Congress time to decide how to deal with the population that was previously eligible under the policy.

Just one day later, on September 6, after a meeting with Trump at the White House, Democratic leaders Chuck Schumer and Nancy Pelosi said they had come to terms with Trump on a plan that would provide protection for Dreamers in exchange for stronger border security. #45 then tweeted, as he’s prone to do: “No deal was made last night on DACA. Massive border security would have to be agreed to in exchange for consent. Would be subject to vote.”

Even Dreamers themselves seem to sometimes be on opposite sides of the fence, which is what makes DACA itself a complicated issue. A group representing young undocumented immigrants interrupted an event hosted by House Minority Leader Pelosi to accuse her and other Democrats of selling out immigrants by negotiating with President Donald Trump.

“We are not your bargaining chip,” they yelled at the event. Some of the protesters said they were concerned that they will be granted new protections in a deal that harms other undocumented immigrants, potentially including their parents.

Many progressive organizations, labor unions, faith-based groups, and elected officials have expressed solidarity with the young people whose DACA status is on the line. In addition to CWA, members and officials of the United Auto Workers, SEIU, UNITE HERE, RWDSU and other labor unions have all denounced DACA’s termination.

So what’s next for the Dreamers? That lies in the hands of Congress and #45. This series will be continued in the next Communique.
Staff members at StoryCorps voted for union representation by CWA Local 1180 on September 13.

The National Labor Relations Board announced the results of the representation election. StoryCorps workers voted by an 83 percent margin for a union voice. The balloting took place in two parts — on August 22 in the Brooklyn office, and by mail-in ballot for workers in out-of-town locations.

StoryCorps is a nonprofit based in Brooklyn that curates and shares stories of everyday Americans. Workers at StoryCorps help conduct interviews, do community outreach, produce stories, and work on the website and app.

"In the past, we experienced sudden layoffs, worked for low wages, and weren’t able to negotiate over working conditions. My colleagues and I decided to come together and organize so we could have a seat at the table to discuss issues like healthcare benefits, severance packages, and greater transparency around pay. Now we’ll be able to have a say in making StoryCorps a better place to work," said Mia Warren, production assistant.

"Even when facing an anti-union campaign by management, my coworkers and I stayed strong for months. Now that we’ve made our voices heard, we can’t wait to get to the bargaining table," said Roselyn Almonte, national facilitator.

The 24-person bargaining unit includes non-managerial staff in programs, finance, external relations and digital divisions and staff in San Francisco and Chicago. StoryCorps staff members are excited to join with Local 1180 members at other non-profits, including OSF, the Nation Institute, and Human Rights Watch.

Workers initially faced an aggressive anti-union campaign of captive audience meetings, literature, and delays. After media and other pressure, the employer remained neutral for the remainder of the campaign.

Former 1180 Organizer Ryan Bruckenthal initially built the organizing committee, and Local Staff Representative Lena Solow gallantly stepped in when he left to lead the group through the anti-union campaign, NLRB hearing, and election.

After gaining union recognition earlier this year, The Century Foundation bargaining committee has been hard at work on their first contract. Among their demands are clearer remote work policies, annual raises, and expanded leave. They have met four times with management and are looking forward to achieving a great contract.

Century Foundation, a 10-person shop, is a progressive, nonpartisan think tank that seeks to foster opportunity, reduce inequality, and promote security at home and abroad. Pictured from left: Kimberly Quick, Molly Bangs, and Michael McCormack.

Thank you to outgoing Shop Steward Laura Kauer-Garcia who will be leaving Human Rights Watch after an extremely successful tenure. Laura participated in the Political Leadership Development training this year and helped sign up a record number of private sector workers as recommitted union members and new donors to the Political Action Fund. She is a fierce advocate for her colleagues, and will be missed. Thanks Laura, and best of luck!

Open Society Foundations continue to bargain for their first contract: The bargaining committee at OSF continues to push for their first contract. They’ve covered important items such as job descriptions, immigration rights, and flexible work hours, and are delving into wages and benefits.
Meet Our New Organizer

Leslie Fine joins CWA Local 1180 as an organizer for the nonprofit and private sector. She has more than 12 years experience in union, community, and electoral organizing.

Most recently, she organized workers in higher education with the UAW, including the ground-breaking student employee union fights at Columbia, The New School, and NYU. Leslie also worked on the contingent faculty campaign at Barnard College, leading to historic wage increases. Her work at UAW built on her years organizing with administrative, fast food, and retail workers in New York City at organizations such as SEIU, Workers United, and NYC.

Before union organizing, Leslie worked for many years at nonprofits herself, doing fundraising, program and administrative work, including at the American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey and the American Cancer Society in Brooklyn. Her political work includes serving as a canvass director on the Obama ’08 campaign. She also worked for the Public Interest Research Group (PIRG) running the Philadelphia fundraising canvass, and as the Field and Operations Director for several grassroots local electoral campaigns in New Jersey.

She is from Montclair, NJ, and has been living in Brooklyn with her partner, roommates, and plants for several years. She attended Rutgers University and did Union Semester at the Murphy Institute. When she’s not working on these campaigns, she has been active in OWS, Occupy Sandy and is Secretary of the Labor Branch of NYC-DSA.

In this moment of increasing interest in and need for a strong labor movement, Leslie is thrilled to be working with CWA Local 1180 to build worker power.
Local 1180 Secretary-Treasurer Gloria Middleton, as Chair of the CWA National Committee on Civil Rights & Equity, organized a presentation with her committee members that focused on one of the many reports given during the Human Rights Department meetings, some of which focused on police cameras, LGBTQ, and mass incarceration, and were summarized in the Committee’s presentation, “It Takes 45 Ways to Trump the People.”

Middleton and her committee members then joined with the Women’s Committee at the end of their report to bring attention to women’s rights, which are under attack with the Trump Administration.

My mere existence is a pre-existing condition. How can I overcome when my health is not a number one? How can our country be safer with more guns? There is no safety in this great nation! And the answer is not mass incarceration!

We have a president who uses his authority to rendition situations that deplete my savings, home, and security, the proposed Choice Act is not where it’s at and we will witness Wall Street 2008 or even worse, the new millennia Watergate.

Too much funding appropriated by fools as they have forgotten about our public schools because the charter got us taxed out. As a matter of fact, if you stop and track it out, you will find that billions of dollars have been axed out and 45 will lie the blame for the shame of our future children who will act out.

We have plenty of immigrants who have made this country great. See race is a construct and racism is all about hate. In 1740 the very first immigration law was for whoever could classify as white with good character, but we know that’s not how we all identify. Just look at Grace Cantania, she is a believer and a leader at our TNG-CWA and what I want to know is are we going to let 45 take her rights away.

We have to fight for what is right and shout out loud with all our might! We have to get our souls to the polls! Voter suppression is enough to cause a depression! Even though minorities keep getting hurt in the sequel.

The Supreme Court defines the Law of the Land But with the last appointment it may change the choice of where workers stand. Liberty, Justice and the American Way Has a whole new meaning in this current day. So what is right, what is fair? How do we hold what is sacred and what is so dear? Classism, racism, sexism, when will they be erased? These concepts are much stronger now that 45 has given them grace.

Working class is what they call us, but don’t be confused, We are the ones that keep the fire lit to the fuse. We are the light, we are the might, we are the strength, We are the ones that go the distance! If we are not healthy, happy, and strong, Then how can the middle class live on? We are more than our health status, We are more than they throw at us, We are CWA. Worth our benefits and way more worth than our pay!

This is not my wall, this is not my freedom, This wall is made of steel, that will burn the hands of the seekers of Freedom, for the Arizona sun has NO hate, it has an unyielding love of the people and a fervor for insuring a future for our folks and our fate. This is not my Wall. Those of you who thought 45 was going to bring things alive, Just wait on the day you decide to have some justice and a taste of cultural pride. This new leader is greedy, could care less for the needy 45 has nothing for us Ain’t nothing funny about this administration, nothing just!

My country tis of thee, Sweet Land of Liberty, except for you and me It is our responsibility to expect accountability Perhaps the last of the middle class, if we don’t get off our ass We the people, We the active, We the planners, not the passive, Be the change. It is time for a revolution. We have the solution We are CWA And for our families we must pave the way. Wake Up, Wake Up, Wake up.
Arizona sun has NO hate, it has an unyielding love of the people

We have to fight for what is right and shout out loud
with all our might!

CWA LoCAL 1180 exeCutiVe BoArD meetinG minutes

work being performed at 6 Harrison Street. call with NuPenn regarding the redevelopment that day, Cheliotes held a follow-up conference commitment to collective bargaining at a time state. Aside from the economic benefit provided

Cuomo, accompanied by Secretary Treasurer Tax Deduction Bill signing hosted by Governor Cuomo, accompanied by CWA Local 1180 officers and

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President's report

Continued on page 22

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President's report

Continued on page 22
CWA LOCAL 1180 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

June 29, 2017
Meeting called to order at 6:20 p.m. Executive Board Members in Attendance

Officers
Arthur Cheliotes, President; Gina Strickland, First Vice President; Terence J. O’Brien, Second Vice President; Gloria Middleton, Secretary-Treasurer; Lourdes Acuédov, Recording Secretary

Members-at-Large

Minutes of the May 24, 2017, meeting were presented. Motion was duly made, seconded, and carried to accept minutes with necessary corrections.

President’s Report
President Cheliotes introduced Pete Silora, former CWA District 1 Legislative Coordinator, to discuss the dangers of climate change and seek support of CWA Local 1180. President Cheliotes discussed the Administrative Manager EEO Case. Dennis G. Trainor, Vice-President Cheliotes discussed the Administrative Manager EEO Case. Dennis G. Trainor, Vice-President Cheliotes discussed the Administrative Manager EEO Case settlement proceedings. Dennis G. Trainor regarding the EEO Case.

That evening, chaired the CWA Local 1180 new member orientation meeting.

May 22, 2017 — Met with CWA Local 1180 IT Director, Naveeh Mohahbi to discuss new network programs.

June 26, 2017 — Met with Scott Levinson and Henry Gar-dick, DC 37 Executive Director, to discuss the possibility of moving DC37’s college program from the College of New Rochelle to the Murphy Institute-CUNY School of Labor.

June 27, 2017 — Held a conference call with H+H to discuss redployement of permanent employees due to reports of possible closures of the Carter Senior Center. That afternoon, held a conference call with the DOP to discuss the New Yorkers for a Better New York (CUNY) Public Hearing on the importance of creating the CUNY School of Labor.

June 20, 2017 — Held a conference call with State Senator Diane Savino, and Bob Master, CWA District 1 Director of Legislative/Pollitical and Mobilization Activities, for assistance with passing outstanding bills in the Senate. That afternoon, chaired the weekly staff meeting. That day, met with representatives from General Vision Services to discuss the eyeglass benefits for members.

June 21, 2017 — Attended the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Quality of Work Life Oversight Meeting. That evening, chaired the CWA Local 1180 new member orientation meeting.

June 22, 2017 — Met with CWA Local 1180 IT Director, Naveeh Mohahbi to discuss new network programs.

June 23, 2017 — Participated in a conference call with H+H to discuss re-deployment of permanent employees due to reports of possible closures of the Carter Senior Center.

June 26, 2017 — Attended a meeting accompanied by Secretary-Treasurer Gloria Middleton and Staff Representative Olivia Lyde at Administration for Children Services (ACS) with the new Commissioner David Hansell to thank him for moving the Administrative Manager list and mobilization activities, for assistance with passing outstanding bills in the Senate. That afternoon, attended a meeting in Borough President’s office in order to get her signature on Intro Bill 1538. Council Member Rose was called away to a meeting, but still met with her Chief of Staff, who was very energetic and orbited with everything presented to her. It was Romer’s first experience meeting with an elected official and she highly recommends we all attend in the future. Etteme also attended and stated she felt welcome. The meeting was very successful as Council Member Rose signed onto the bill as soon as she returned to the office. Deborah Ros is a former CWA member who worked for the Department of Transportation.

June 27, 2017 — Participated in the Graffiti Clean-up at PS 169 in Bay Terrace.

June 30, 2017 — Chaired the weekly staff meeting.

May 31, 2017 — Held a conference call regarding funding for Murphy Institute.

June 29, 2017 — Met with CWA District 1 Legislative Coordinator, to discuss the dangers of climate change and seek support of CWA Local 1180.

June 15, 2017 — Attended the CWA Local 1180 Executive Board meeting.

June 19, 2017 — Attended the Murphy Institute-CUNY School of Labor.

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June 29, 2017 — Met with CWA District 1 Legislative Coordinator, to discuss the dangers of climate change and seek support of CWA Local 1180.

June 15, 2017 — Attended the CWA Local 1180 Executive Board meeting.

June 19, 2017 — Attended the Murphy Institute-CUNY School of Labor.

June 22, 2017 — Met with CWA Local 1180 IT Director, Naveeh Mohahbi to discuss new network programs.

June 26, 2017 — Met with Scott Levinson and Henry Gar-dick, DC 37 Executive Director, to discuss the possibility of moving DC37’s college program from the College of New Rochelle to the Murphy Institute-CUNY School of Labor.

June 27, 2017 — Held a conference call with H+H to discuss redployement of permanent employees due to reports of possible closures of the Carter Senior Center. That afternoon, held a conference call with the DOP to discuss the New Yorkers for a Better New York (CUNY) Public Hearing on the importance of creating the CUNY School of Labor.

June 20, 2017 — Held a conference call with State Senator Diane Savino, and Bob Master, CWA District 1 Director of Legislative/Pollitical and Mobilization Activities, for assistance with passing outstanding bills in the Senate. That afternoon, chaired the weekly staff meeting. That day, met with representatives from General Vision Services to discuss the eyeglass benefits for members.

June 21, 2017 — Attended the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Quality of Work Life Oversight Meeting. That evening, chaired the CWA Local 1180 new member orientation meeting.

June 22, 2017 — Met with CWA Local 1180 IT Director, Naveeh Mohahbi to discuss new network programs.

June 23, 2017 — Participated in a conference call with H+H to discuss re-deployment of permanent employees due to reports of possible closures of the Carter Senior Center.

June 26, 2017 — Attended a meeting accompanied by Secretary-Treasurer Gloria Middleton and Staff Representative Olivia Lyde at Administration for Children Services (ACS) with the new Commissioner David Hansell to thank him for moving the Administrative Manager list and advocating for additional appointments. Also discussed an Educational Program with the Murphy Institute.

First Vice President Gina Strickland reported that DEP held an Administrative Manager hiring pool on June 20, 2017. There were 102 candidates called to the pool, with 78 members appointed. Appointments were made in conjunction with the 1 and 5 rule.

First Vice President Strickland further reported that the Department of Finance (DOF) held its hiring pool and we are awaiting the results for review.

First Vice President Gina Strickland will submit staff representative activity at next month’s Executive Board meeting.

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:

June 25, 2017 — Met with the Murphy Institute District 1 Staff to discuss the Murphy Institute-CUNY Graduate Center in New York City.

May 31, 2017 — Attended the General Membership meeting and coordinated New York City’s National Day of Action participation at the Comptroller’s very impressed by the number of members in atten-
dance, which totalled nearly 300.

June 6, 2017 — Met with the NYC Human Resource Administration (HRA) to discuss bringing Murphy Institute classes to 4
June 21, 2017 — Coordinated an orientation for 70 new members of CWA Local 1180.

June 27, 2017 — Conducted candidate screenings for 16 candidates running for the New York City Council in the September 2017 Primary Election. Nearly 30 members were in attendance to interview the following candidates: 

Manchester
- 8th District: Diana Ayala, Robert Rodriguez, Edward Santos
- 9th District: Bill Perkins, Marvin Holland

Brooklyn
- 13th District: Marjorie Valdez, John Doyle, Mark Gjonaj
- 18th District: Eliot Garcia, Michael Beltzer, Armanda Farias
- 28th District: Richard David, Hettie Powell, Ruben Wills

Queens
- 13th District: Bill Perkins, Marvin Holland

Bronx
- 9th District: Diana Ayala, Robert Rodriguez, Edward Santos
- 8th District: Bill Perkins, Marvin Holland

Brooklyn
- 40th District: Mathew Eugene, Brian Cunningham, Pia Raymond

Brooklyn
- 41st District: Alicka Samuel, Deidre Olivera

Brooklyn
- 43rd District: Justin Brannan

At this time, the Executive Board voted to table the discussion and endorsement of candidates until a future date.

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

Secretary-Treasurer’s Report
Secretary-Treasurer Gloria Middleton advised that the T.D. checking account has a balance of $1,022,413.13 as of C.O.B June 28, 2017.

CWA Local 1180 obtained 96 new members since the last report from the Secretary Treasurer.

Secretary-Treasurer Gloria Middleton announced that this is an election year for the CWA Local 1180 Officers and Executive Board. The Election Committee will be reconvened next month in order to start the proceedings.

Motion was duly made, seconded, and carried to accept the Secretary-Treasurer’s Report.

Member-at-Large Denise Gilliam indicated CULW is hosting its 19th Biennial Convention from September 6-9, 2017, in Detroit, Michigan. Motion was made and approved to send four CULW members.

Member-at-Large Denise Gilliam indicated that this is an election year for the CWA Local 1180 Women’s Committee. Motion was made and approved to host its 2nd Annual Pink and White Afternoon Affair Brunch on August 19, 2017, in order to kick off the 2017 making Strides Against Breast Cancer campaign. Lastly, she reported that in collaboration with the Disability Committee, they will host a Health Fair on November 11, 2017.

Member-at-Large Venus Colon-Williams reported that this year’s Hispanic Heritage Celebration will be on November 4, 2017, at the Borough of Manhattan Community College in Lower Manhattan. Complete details to follow. Lastly, she reported that the Back to School Back Pack Drive will be available in the beginning of July. The collection will be through the last week of August.

Member-at-Large Hilary Bloomfield reported on the Bronx Borough Coordinating Meeting held on June 22, 2017, with 49 people attending. Hospice and various community issues were discussed. Meetings will be held in other Bronx locations in order to get to know those neighborhoods. Committee member Cheryl Simmons spoke about opioid addiction. The Bronx Borough Community Coordinating Committee will reconvene in September 2017. She also reported that she was presented with a certificate from Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark for being a neighborhood activist. She also reported that she is reaching out to Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. and NY Council member Andy King from the Bronx on issues facing the community.

The next Executive Board Meeting is scheduled for July 18, 2017.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Lourdes Acevedo
Recording Secretary

Eligibility Workers Conference August 13-16, 2017, in San Diego, California. Motion made and approved.

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CWA Local 1180 Benefit Funds

**Dental Plan**

The CWA Local 1180 Benefit Funds’ Dental Open Enrollment Period started September 25, 2017 and runs through December 1, 2017. Changes in your dental plan coverage will be effective January 1, 2018. You may choose one plan only, either the Dentcare Dental Plan or the Scheduled Dental Benefit Plan. **You cannot be enrolled under both plans at the same time.** You must stay with your choice until the next open enrollment period.

**IF YOU WISH TO REMAIN IN YOUR CURRENT PLAN NO ACTION IS REQUIRED**

**DENTCARE DENTAL PLAN**

This program provides all necessary dental services with little or no out-of-pocket expense. You are required to use a DENTCARE AFFILIATED PROVIDER. You will receive an ID card that you will present to your participating provider. (No claim forms are required)

**SCHEDULED DENTAL BENEFIT PLAN**

Under this plan you may go to any dentist you choose, but when you use a non-participating dentist, you may incur an out-of-pocket expense for covered services. Payment is made for dental expenses up to $2,000 per calendar year for each covered member and eligible dependent. Payments are made according to the Schedule of Dental Allowances. In addition, there is an orthodontia benefit based on a schedule. Participating dentists will accept the allowance set by the plan as payment-in-full for the services you receive. (Claim forms are required)

If cost of treatment will be more than $500, or when charges for a course of treatment includes crown or bridgework, you must submit a pre-treatment plan to the dental consultant’s office before treatment begins. Benefits will be denied on any claim not submitted for pre-treatment review as required.

**Retirees Benefits Fund**

**Florida Dental Plan**

The Dental Plan Open Enrollment Period for Florida Retirees runs through December 1, 2017, with changes in coverage taking effect on January 1, 2018. **If you wish to remain in your current plan no action is required.** You may choose one plan only, either the Scheduled Dental Benefit Plan, the $700 Dental Plan, or the Dentcare Dental Plan. You must stay with your choice until the next open enrollment period. You cannot be enrolled under more than one plan at the same time.

**SCHEDULED DENTAL BENEFIT PLAN**

Under this plan you may go to any dentist you choose, but when you use a non-participating dentist, you may incur an out-of-pocket expense for covered services. Payment is made for dental expenses up to $2,000 per calendar year for each covered member and eligible dependent. Payments are made according to the Schedule of Dental Allowances. In addition, there is an orthodontia benefit based on a schedule. Participating dentists will accept the allowance set by the plan as payment-in-full for the services you receive. If cost of treatment will be more than $500, or when charges for a course of treatment includes crown or bridgework, you must submit a pre-treatment plan to the dental consultant’s office before treatment begins. Benefits will be denied on any claim not submitted for pre-treatment review as required.

**HEALTHPLEX AMERICA VALUE PLUS PLAN ($700)**

Please note that should you elect coverage under this plan the Fund pays all subscription fees but you will be responsible for moderate co-payments (if any). This Plan offers a very robust network of providers in Florida.

**DENTCARE DENTAL PLAN**

Dentcare providers are located almost exclusively in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Connecticut. Although this may be an option to Florida residents who return to these areas for their dental care, it may not be appropriate for most permanent Florida residents. Dentcare supports retirees with a limited number of providers in Broward, Dade and Palm Beach counties. There are just a few specialist available under this plan for these Florida counties.

**NOTE FOR ALL ACTIVE AND RETIRED MEMBERS:** If you are interested in changing your dental plan we will provide more detailed information and applications upon request. Please contact the Fund at 212.966.5353 or out-of-area at 888.966.5353.