

LOCAL 79



October, 2009

PLA Paves the Way



PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENT

An estimated \$14 billion worth of construction contracts are in the pipeline, as a result of Project Labor Agreements involving the City and State, private developers, and the Building Trades Council. These PLA agreements – covering both private developer work and public work — are expected to be signed by the end of the year. Forty-two private sector PLA's have been applied for, worth approximately \$7 billion, and thirty-five are already in effect.

Robert Bonanza, Mason Tenders District Council Business Manager, is the point man for these contracts for our union. He says each party to the PLA's

got something they wanted. The unions got work to help ride out the recession. Developers and banks got lower labor costs overall – although the wages of Local 79 members are not affected. And the City has contracts worth \$4 billion to build and renovate a wide variety of public buildings, from housing projects to marine transfer stations in Manhattan and Brooklyn. The PLA's include a new police academy, estimated to cost \$711 million, and the City's new Public Safety Answering Center II in the north central Bronx, worth \$575 million, which will provide extra security for the dispatching of fire, police, and EMS calls.

Building and Construction Trades Council President Gary LaBarbara came into his new job back in January, with his first mission to try to get a public works, citywide PLA – something that hadn't been done before.



MTDC's Bobby Bonanza describes the four-year outlook for work under the PLA's.

Putting all of the trades into one room for negotiations with the City wasn't easy – but everyone understood the importance of this deal. The agreement with the City of New York has an added plus: any savings due to the PLA will be put back into the City's capital budget, where it can be applied to new projects. The PLA with the School Construction Authority is worth \$6.1 billion by itself. Private sector work under negotiated PLA's stands at approximately \$7 billion, and there's still time for developers to apply for the program.

Live in a NYCHA House? It Could Lead to a Great Job

With the economy in recession, everyone is scrambling to find work. But in New York City, no matter how bad things get, there are always opportunities.

“We are always looking for new



opportunities for our members,” said Local 79 Business Manager John Delgado. “Working with Greater New York LECET, the Local 79 organizing staff was able to get the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) to change the way it does business. “Basically, we were able to get an agency

that did all its construction non-union, to where today an overwhelming majority of its work is union.”

With over \$500 million in federal stimulus money, NYCHA is looking to hire Local 79 members who are residents in their housing developments. As part of the application process, and in order to be awarded the work, contractors must agree to hire NYCHA residents.

The work will take place throughout the five boroughs, and includes rehabilitation of kitchens and bathrooms, as well as exterior pointing, cleaning, and caulking. “This is a great opportunity for Local 79 members to get good, long-term jobs,” said Delgado.

To qualify for these jobs, Local 79 members must be certified that their name appears on a NYCHA lease. “We want to help NYCHA with the certifica-

tion process,” says Delgado. “Members need to give us permission

to provide NYCHA with their social security number, so they can verify you are a NYCHA resident.” Members can give this permission to the union either by coming into the Union Hall and signing a permission form, or by filling out, and returning, the card in this newsletter.

“This is a great opportunity for our members,” said Delgado. “I hope anyone who qualifies takes advantage of this opportunity.”

Use the enclosed coupon to authorize Local 79 to release your information to NYCHA. Mail it in today!

For more information about the NYCHA program, please contact Oona Adams at Greater New York LECET, at 212-452-9383.



John Delgado

MONTHLY DUES are \$27 as per the LIUNA Constitution. Retirees dues are \$8 per month. Dues payments must no go over two months without being paid or the member will be suspended. The readmission fee is \$56 for every month that the dues payments are behind, plus \$27 for the current month. Members' Union Book numbers must be written on their check or money order when paying dues by mail. You can pay by card with the following restrictions: All debit cards are accepted. MasterCard, Visa, and Discover are accepted. NO AMERICAN EXPRESS CARDS! All telephone transactions must be completed by 4:00 PM. You must speak directly with a member in the Dues Department. No transactions can be completed by voice mail. The bank will charge the member a 2% fee for each transaction.

ONE DAY'S SERVICE to the Union is mandatory, walking a line or attending a rally. Each member must commit one day each year or face a fine. If we don't take action, we lose market share. For more info, call 212-465-7979.

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Construction and General Building Laborers' Local 79
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Activism: Rat Flotilla in Contractor's Back Yard

What was supposed to be a private picnic for friends and family last July turned into a news event -- and one Long Island neighbor was exposed a man who cheats his employees.

What Field Rep John Wund called the Local 79 Marine Division descended on developer Thomas Auringer's Freeport, Long Island harbor-view home in June. The union flotilla -- 40



members, seven boats, and four huge inflatable rats -- came after organizers helped Auringer's workers file claims for non payment. Organizers found Auringer's workers more than willing to listen -- they were angry, and they wanted justice.

"Auringer and his brothers own numerous companies that exploit workers," Wund says, "both upstate and also in New York City. One of their companies, US Crane and Rigging, supplies the non-union sector with tower cranes. But now there's a Labor Board investigation for non-



payment of wages, and it has put pressure on Auringer."

Part of that pressure came from investigative reporter Barbara Nevins Taylor of Channel 9, who confronted the contractor in his own driveway, demanding that he answer questions about non payment of wages. He slammed the car door in her face. But she was back, interviewing John Wund as well as Au-



ring's workers, who confirmed the story.

The fight against Auringer's companies has included numerous demonstrations and protests at different locations, but the rat boats were something new. First, a busload of union members fanned out through Freeport, handing out flyers about Auringer throughout his fancy neighborhood, where expensive boats are moored off wide back yards. Then, the rat flotilla came up the canal to his house, sailing into a picnic for the developer's friends. "He lives on the canal, so it was an ideal opportunity," says Wund. "We reached out to the local TV



news, and they covered it."

"The campaign has been escalating, and Auringer's been hurting," Wund says. "He's down from a peak of about 150 employees to about 75. His market share has diminished dramatically. When someone Googles him on the internet, they'll see these demonstrations."

Channel 9's Barbara Nevins Taylor even interviewed Auringer's security guard who said he hasn't been paid, either. We hope developers get the message: contractors who don't treat their workers well and pay a decent wage aren't worth doing business with.



John Wund on Channel 9



Rank and File, Families, and our Officers came out for the Labor Day Parade on September 12th. Thanks for supporting your Union!



OUR VOLUNTEER ORGANIZER PROGRAM

The Volunteer Organizing Program is a fairly new initiative where, after extensive organizer training, members could possibly be hired as full-time organizers.

This is a unique experience to not only let the union grow & strengthen but also experience the innerworking of an organizer. Interested? Call Chaz Rynkiewicz at 212-465-7956.

Organizing

Local 79 Organizers

Chaz Rynkiewicz

Market Development
Assistant Director
646-265-5674

Lenny Anselmo

(Queens) 646-385-4227

Bernard Callegari

(Queens) 646-265-7762

Jose Chicas (Eastside
23rd St. — 110th St.)

646-265-5672

Jason Delgado (Brooklyn) 347-387-6697

Gerry Kraft (Demolition)
646-265-5673

Tommy Orlando

(Manhattan)
646-265-5594

Anthony Reid (Bronx)
646-265-8560

Eugene Sparano (West-
side 23rd St. — 110th St.)

646-265-5625

Anthony Williamson
(23rd St. — Downtown)

646-265-5675

John Wund (Building
Trades) 646-265-5676

Volunteer Organizer

Dennis Lee
347-266-8576

SHOP STEWARD NEWS

Certification Guidelines

No members will be eligible to become new shop stewards or register for the Shop Steward Initial Certification Course until they have successfully completed ALL of the required courses below:

- OSHA (10 Hours)
- CPR/First Aid (8 Hours)
- Sexual Harassment (4 Hours)
- Scaffold User (4 Hours). (Those holding a Scaffold User card that is more than four years old must take the course again.)
- Fall Protection (4 Hours)
- Confined Space (8 Hours)
- F-93 Fireguard (4 Hours)
- Hazard Communication (4 Hours)
- VOICE (4 Hours)

Once you have been a certified shop steward for five years, you will only have to take the refresher course every three years. Before that, shop stewards must take the refresher course every year.

Note: In addition to the above, shop stewards are required to attend the monthly membership meetings and any mandatory shop steward meetings each year, as well as fulfilling the Mandatory Member Participation commitment.



Our Retirement Council. From left to right: Leo Ognibene, Mel Melendez, Phil Realmuto, Rocco Conenna, Danny Elicono, Peter Azzarelli, Robert Denoia and Retirement Committee members John Modica and Melissa Siciliano and Tommy Intravaia. At right, Anthony Lombardo wins a raffle prize.

A Day at the Races: Our Retirees Enjoy a Beautiful Day and Free Checkups at Belmont

The promise of connecting with old friends, placing modest bets, and perhaps winning a raffle prize brought hundreds of Local retirees out to Belmont Park on September 25th. Former members

day. Michael Callaghan, 73, pictured below with Nurse Heather Juman-James, gets the news about his blood pressure -- it's a decent 180 over 90.

Brother Callaghan counts himself lucky to be alive. Though diagnosed with non-malignant asbestosis from his work on skyscrapers



of Locals 66 and 79 — and their wives — came out to the track and were greeted by Local 79 Business Manager John Delgado, President Kenny Brancaccio, and all of the officers of the Retirees Council. Playing a central coordinating role was our own Melissa Siciliano.

Free checkups, before the races, were the order of the

like 88 Pine and 160 Wall — where asbestos was sprayed on beams for fireproofing — he feels fit and enjoys life.

“These events are a lot of fun,” he says, “and I meet a lot of the people I worked with.” He wants readers to know that before coming to America, he was a fireman in County Meath, Ireland.

At right, Bob Croke, Pat



Nurse Margaret Garrett-Herry checks Josephine Migliore's blood sugar level. She's the wife of Carmine Migliore, a Union member of 50 years' standing, who helped build Coney Island Hospital and Bellevue.

Shanagher, and Mickey Kelly of the Laborers Health and Safety Fund enjoy a day in the sun.

“I have no complaints,” Pat says, “and I enjoy my health coverage.” Both Pat and Bob regularly go out to the lines where Local 79 has a presence fighting non-union contractors.



¿Vive usted en una vivienda de la NYCHA? Eso podría llevarlo a un buen empleo.

Con la economía en recesión, todo el mundo trata por todos los medios de encontrar trabajo. Pero en la Ciudad de Nueva York, por más mala que sea la situación, siempre hay oportunidades.

“Siempre estamos buscando nuevas oportunidades para nuestros miembros”, dijo John Delgado, Gerente Comercial del Local 79. “Trabajando con Greater New York LECET, el personal de organización del Local 79 pudo lograr que la Autoridad de Vivienda de la Ciudad de Nueva York (NYCHA) cambiara la forma en que hace negocios. “Básicamente, logramos que una agencia que hacía todo su trabajo sin formar parte de la unión, actualmente haga la mayoría de su trabajo con la unión”.



Con más de \$500 millones de dinero de estímulo federal, la NYCHA está interesada en contratar a miembros del Local 79 que sean residentes en sus proyectos de vivienda. Como parte del proceso de solicitud, y a fin de obtener la adjudicación de las obras, los contratistas deben comprometerse a con-

UN DÍA DE SERVICIO para la Unión es obligatorio, ya sea caminando en una fila o asistiendo a una manifestación. Cada miembro debe comprometerse a cumplir esto un día de cada año o pagar una multa. Si no actuamos, perdemos esta participación en el mercado. Para más información, llame al 212-465-7979

tratar a residentes de las viviendas de la NYCHA. El trabajo tendrá lugar en los cinco condados municipales, que incluye la rehabilitación de cocinas y baños, así como trabajos de punteado, limpieza y calafateado del exterior de edificios. “Esta es una gran oportunidad para que los miembros del Local 79 consigan buenos empleos a largo plazo”, dijo Delgado.

Para calificar para estos empleos, los miembros del Local 79 deben estar certificados y sus nombres deben aparecer en un contrato de arrendamiento de la NYCHA. “Queremos ayudar a la NYCHA con el proceso de certificación”, dice Delgado. “Los miembros necesitan darnos su permiso para proporcionar su número de seguro social a la NYCHA, para que puedan verificar que son residentes de viviendas de la NYCHA. Los miembros pueden dar este permiso a la unión ya sea viniendo al salón de la unión (Union Hall) y firmando un formulario de permiso, o rellenando y remitiendo por correo la tarjeta que encontrarán en este boletín.

“Esta es una gran oportunidad para nuestros miembros”, dijo Delgado. “Espero que toda persona que califique aproveche esta oportunidad”.

Use el cupón adjunto para autorizar al Local 79 a enviar su información a la NYCHA. ¡Envíelo hoy mismo!

Para recibir más información sobre el programa de la NYCHA, comuníquese con Oona Adams de Greater New York LECET, al 212-452-9383.

El Programa de Organización Voluntario es una iniciativa relativamente nueva, en lo cual se puede, después de instrucción extensiva, los miembros podrían ser empleados como organizadores.

Esta es una oportunidad única no sólo para permitir al sindicato a crecer y fortalecerse, pero también para aprender sobre el funcionamiento interno de una organización voluntaria. ¿Interesado? Llame al 212-465-7956 Rynkiewicz Chaz.



Convenio PLA vale miles de millones

Se estima que hay 14,000 millones de dólares (\$14 billion) en proyectos de contratos de construcción, como resultado de los Convenios de Proyectos de Trabajo (PLA por su siglas en inglés) en los que participan la Ciudad y el Estado, promotores privados, y el Building Trades Council (Consejo de Oficios de la Edificación). Se prevé que estos convenios PLA, que abarcan tanto a promotores privados como obras públicas, se firmarán a finales de este año. Se han solicitado cuarenta y dos convenios PLA del sector privado, con un valor de aproximadamente 7,000 millones de dólares (\$7 billion) y treinta y cinco de estos ya se han concretado.

Robert Bonanza, el Gerente de de Negocios del Consejo del Distrito para Licitaciones de Albañiles (Mason Tenders District Council Business Manager), es el hombre de contacto para estos contratos para nuestra unión. El afirma que cada una de las partes de los convenios PLA tiene algo que ganar. Los gremios van a trabajar para ayudar a sobrellevar la recesión. Los promotores y los bancos consiguen costos de mano de obra más bajos, aunque los sueldos de los miembros del Local 79 no son afectados. Y la Ciudad tiene contratos por valor de 4,000 millones de dólares (\$4 billion) para conseguir renovar una gran variedad de edificios públicos, desde proyectos de vivienda hasta estaciones de transferencia marina en Manhattan y Brooklyn. Los Convenios PLA incluyen una nueva academia de policía, cuyo costo se estima en \$711 millones, y el nuevo Centro de Contestación para la Seguridad Pública II (Public Safety Answering Center II) en el sector central norte del Bronx, por valor de \$175 millones, que proporcionará seguridad adicional para el despacho de las llamadas de los bomberos, la policía y los servicios de emergencia médica (EMS).

Gary LaBarbara, el presidente del Consejo de Oficios de Edificación y Construcción (Building and Construction Trades Council) asumió su nuevo cargo en enero, y su primera misión fue establecer un convenio PLA para toda la ciudad, con fines de activar obras públicas, algo que no se había hecho hasta ahora. Reunir a todos los oficios en una sola sala para negociar con la ciudad no fue una tarea fácil, pero todos entendieron la importancia de



Bobby Bonanza, del MTDC, describe las perspectivas para los próximos cuatro años respecto de las obras encaradas en el marco de los convenios PLA.

este proyecto. El convenio con la ciudad de Nueva York tiene una ventaja adicional: los ahorros que se adeuden al PLA se reintegrarán al presupuesto de capital de la ciudad, donde se pueden aplicar a nuevos proyectos. El PLA con la Autoridad de Construcción de Escuelas vale de por sí 6,100 millones de dólares (\$6.1 billion). Las obras del sector privado cubiertas por los convenios PLA negociados representan aproximadamente 7,000 millones de dólares (\$7 billion) y todavía queda tiempo para que los promotores soliciten al programa.

LAS CUOTAS MENSUALES son de \$27 de acuerdo con la Constitución de la LIUNA. Las cuotas para los jubilados son de \$8 por mes. Los pagos de las cuotas no deben atrasarse más de dos meses, de lo contrario el miembro será suspendido. La cuota de reintegro es de \$56 por cada mes de atraso de las cuotas, más \$27 por el mes en curso. Al pagar las cuotas por correo, los números del miembro en el Libro de la Unión deben estar escritos en el cheque o giro postal. Las cuotas se pueden pagar con tarjeta con las siguientes limitaciones: Se aceptan todas las tarjetas de débito. Se aceptan MasterCard, Visa y Discover. ¡NO SE ACEPTAN LAS TARJETAS DE AMERICAN EXPRESS! Todas las transacciones telefónicas deben completarse antes de las 4:00 PM. Usted debe hablar directamente con un miembro del departamento de cuotas (Dues Department). No se pueden completar transacciones por el buzón telefónico (voice mail). El banco cobrará al miembro una comisión de 2% por cada transacción.



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UPCOMING EVENTS **2009**

Call Melissa Siciliano at (212) 465-7976 for more information.

October 30
Retiree Event
Atlantic City

November 18
General Membership
Meeting
5:00 PM., St. Vartan's Church; 630 Second
Avenue between 34th and 35th Streets

December 3
Retiree Holiday Party
@ Russo's on the Bay
Queens, New York

December 16
General Membership/
Holiday Party, Villa Barone, Bronx



After a protracted primary election, two labor-friendly candidates emerged victorious to assume leadership roles in City government. Bill de Blasio, current City Councilmember from the progressive 39th Council district in Brooklyn will almost certainly be the next Public Advocate. John Liu, present City Councilmember from the culturally diverse 20th Coun-

Democratic Primary Nets Pro-Labor Leadership

cil district in Queens, is expected to become the next Comptroller and will be the first Asian American elected to City-wide office. Both men will face weak Republican challengers in the November general election.

As City Councilmember, Bill de Blasio worked closely with the Mason Tenders District Council to secure a PLA with Toll Brothers for a large mixed-use development in the Gowanus section of Brooklyn. Councilmember de Blasio was unswerving in his commitment that this project be built using union labor and was instrumental in

brokering the deal. Once underway, this project is estimated to generate over \$250 million in construction spending.

As Chairperson of the City Council Transportation Committee John Liu used his position to protect the interests of commuters and fought back against unprecedented MTA fare hikes and service cuts. He has proven to be an advocate for the City's working people.

Members of the Executive Board of Local 79 will be meeting again with de Blasio and Liu to reiterate the issues of importance to our members, including job creation through



responsible development and prevailing wage enforcement. But before they can address our agenda, these pro-worker candidates must be elected on November 3.

Make sure to vote on that day for Bill de Blasio for Public Advocate and John Liu for Comptroller. To get involved in election activities call Kris at the MTDCPC at 212-452-9552.