

THE CUTTING EDGE NEWSLETTER

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Happy Holidays



President's Message

A Christmas of Gratitude and Hope

Merry Christmas Brothers and Sisters:

During the course of the recent election campaign we heard a lot about A Tale of Two Cities, but in the spirit of the season I'd prefer to open with a thought from another Charles Dickens classic, A Christmas Carol: "God bless us, every one!"

Frankly, we in Local 94 have been blessed. Once again we've gone through another year with 100% employment. There is a job for everyone in this local who wants to work. Just as importantly our members are earning good wages, and each of our funds are financially strong and growing.

Yes, we have much to be grateful for, but none of what we have was handed to us. We are fortunate to have hard working business agents; a concerned and dedicated executive board; a training center devoted to keeping you, the members, ahead of the technological curve; and an office staff which is always ready to look out to help resolve problems and concerns as they arise.

Most importantly we have you – the membership.

None of what we have would be possible without you and the work you do every day. Beyond that you have never failed to step up to help each other and others in need.

I firmly believe engineers love a challenge and whether it's outside-the-box thinking to solve a crisis in the engine room, or providing a poor kid with a new backpack for school, you have always delivered.

For all you have done and all you

continue to do, I raise a toast and say thank you!

Yet, for all we have earned and all we are grateful for, there is still that Tale of Two Cities.

Clearly Mayor-elect Bill de Blasio struck the right chord with New Yorkers with his Tale of Two Cities campaign. Now that he has been overwhelmingly elected on a promise of creating a New York for all New Yorkers we will soon learn how he plans to

Service unions haven't seen a wage increase in more than four years. Yet, we're are constantly being compelled to pay more for the subway and buses, and those fortunate to own a home in Brooklyn, Queens or another borough are confronted with annual rises in their real estate taxes and water bills.

Meanwhile, after 12 years of Bloomberg long-time residents are being forced from their neighborhoods as those who rent can no longer keep

'If we are going to take our city back we are going to need jobs that pay a decent wage, new housing large enough to raise a family, job training and education to meet the demands of new technology and new industry.'

deliver on that welcomed message.

For too long we have watched as Manhattan has slowly been transformed into a playground for rich and super-rich. Week after week we see reports of apartments, condos and co-ops being sold \$25 –million, \$50–million and upwards of \$100-million units only to sit empty for months at a time.

And, while the velvet rope is always up for the parade of global princes' who love our theaters, restaurants, and cultural institutions, the hard-working men and women who provide the services that make this city run are falling further and further behind.

Our brothers and sisters in the Civil

up with the increases and home owners are tantalized by six and even seven figure offers for their homes.

And, after taking the money they soon learn they can't afford to stay in the city and find themselves faced with a 90-minute commute every day.

Priced out of their homes and without a decent minimum wage, New York City has seen a 13% increase in our homeless population. And, according HUD's annual survey of 3,000 cities and reported in the New York Times the increase comes at a time when the number of homeless people dropped by 4% nationwide.

Mayor de Blasio and his

administration are facing a daunting challenge. If we are going to take our city back we are going to need jobs that pay a decent wage, new housing large enough to raise a family, job training and education to meet the demands of new technology and new industry.

With courage, commitment and resolve all of this is possible. Staten Island Councilmember Debi Rose proved that when she stood up and demanded the historically non-union BFC Partners agree to construct its Empire Outlet project in St. George with 100% union labor.

Councilmember Rose stood firm in her refusal to approve the \$260 million mixed-use development without a PLA. BFC caved. Because of her courage and commitment Rose was instrumental in creating hundreds of new union jobs.

Those jobs will not only change the face of St. George, but will create opportunity and growth to benefit Staten Island and all New Yorkers. So by taking a stand Councilmember Rose has restored the hope that we can take our city back and make it the national model for a vibrant middleclass.

Dickens could not have come up with a happier ending.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Fraternally,

Kuba J. Brown





Tom Costello

Local 94 Team: Engineering Artistry and Efficiency at 31 W. 52d St.

It may not win acclaim in artistic circles, but for the Local 94 crew 31 W. 52d Street is a work of art that needs to be cared for as much as any Monet. A recipient of LEED Silver certification, 31 West 52nd Street boasts a sustainable cutting edge approach to the building's development, maintenance and operations. Starting in 2008, which was before the mandated 2010 NYC requirement of all buildings to benchmark energy consumption using the EPA's Energy Star® system, they saw a chance to achieve the prestigious designation. After the first benchmarking, the building scored 72—just three points short of designation. The team set to work.

Lighting was upgraded to higher efficiency bulbs in stairwells, mechanical spaces, utility closets and the lobby. The team devised a multi-layered procedure for reducing load, which when tied into a sophisticated computer dashboard monitoring system, cutting energy use by more than 10% this past summer. They analyzed and then implemented operational efficiencies from the more obvious steps such as shutting off unnecessary equipment fans, to installing drives that allow pumps to run at more efficient speeds, to calibrating cooling water temperatures more efficiently. These efforts are led by the Chief Engineer- Patrick Lynch, Assistant Chief Engineer- James Messina, and an

'Many of these projects are a team effort and it is great to have a group that takes pride in the way the building looks and runs.'

Engineering Staff that includes- Chris Draheim, John Lynch, Anthony Spinichia, Anthony Cruciat, Bill Fagan, and Arun D. Fedai. Many of these changes result in a savings on energy and also reduce the carbon footprint substantially. These changes include:

- Installation of VFD driven fans to the fresh air system, cooling towers, heating system, tenant condenser water system and all air handling units through the building which resulted in a potential annual savings of over \$600,000.
- Retrofitting lighting through lobby and common areas, resulting in a reduction of 128,579 Kwh per year and an annual savings of roughly \$50,000.
- Retrofit all washroom toilet fixtures with low water consumption units.
- Replacing Cooling Tower Fill



Helper Ryan Olsen, left, and Assistant Chief Jim Messina.

with a high-efficiency product.

- Replacing all air handlers coils with high-efficiency coils.
- Commissioning of new energy efficient fire damper system throughout the building.
- Currently in the process of upgrading air conditioning units

to all elevator machine rooms with more environmentally friendly equipment.

In addition, 31 West 52nd Street is an active participant in NYSER-DA's initiative to curtail power loads in the summer and winter months. This



(L to R) Engineers Bill Fagan, John Lynch, Anthony Cruciat, Assistant Chief Jim Messina, Helper Ryan Olsen and Chief Pat Lynch.

helps to alleviate the strains on the city's power grid and reduces associated carbon emissions. The implementation of a "real-time monitoring system," IES, spearheaded by Director of Engineering, Paul Hitzel, plays a key part in the building's energy maintenance/monitoring program. The Engineer's monitored Energy Desk determines automatically monthly and annual savings and emissions offsets! In summary: The steam and electricity savings were largely due to the Engineer's persistent efforts in managing energy use in real time as well as their managing their Time of Use (TOU) demand savings via a demand response plan of action as well as the winter time start up management of steam.

Overall kilowatt hours saved per year has now reached more than one million. The building's Energy Star rating increased 17 points from 2008 to present. The final score not only made it to 75 to qualify, but far surpassed it,

reaching 89—an unusually high number for a building that was built in the 1980's without the sustainability technology of today.

"It is great to see that after being in this building for nearly 27 years that we continue to find ways to move forward with the times" said Chief Engineer, Pat Lynch. "Many of these projects are a team effort and it is great to have a group that takes pride in the way the building looks and runs."

As well as transforming the building through implementation of new equipment and technologies, the Engineering Staff has implemented a rigorous preventive maintenance schedule for all existing building equipment to ensure machinery is running at the optimum levels. The overall appearance and operation of all mechanical spaces is a direct example of what has become synonymous with the level of quality that is associated with a Paramount Group building run by Local 94 Engineers.



John Kramer

Blending the Old and the New Local 94 Crew Keeps things going in Historic Landmark at 14 Wall Street

Designed by Trowbridge & Livingston when the 37-story skyscraper at 14 Wall Street first opened its doors in 1912 it was the tallest banking building in the world. Built as the headquarters for Bankers Trust, the seven story pyramid on its roof was soon known throughout the world as the Bankers Trust iconic logo.

Designed after the Mausoleum of Halicarnassus at the top of St. Mark's Campanile in Venice the pyramid also served a practical purpose. According to the Landmarks Preservation Commission report the windowless pyramid "housed record rooms and storage spaces as well as the building's mechanical equipment including the main smoke stack which vented through openings in the apex of the pyramid producing 'an effect not unlike a volcano in action.'"

Located between Broadway and Nassau Street opposite the New York Stock Exchange and with spectacular views of the harbor, J.P. Morgan had an apartment built on the 31st floor. Contrary to popular belief, and according to that same Landmarks Commission report, Morgan amidst charges of anti-trust violations never did move in.

Morgan did however have Trowbridge & Livingston design a 15-story building at 23 Wall Street.

'Everyone has been here at least 10 to 15 years, so we have the benefit of an experienced crew. We keep the building running.'

And between Bankers Trust had a 25-story L-shaped Modern Classic and Art Deco tower added to the east side of their building. The building was designated a landmark in 1997.

Morgan and Bankers Trust are long gone. Left behind are the large brass doors featuring symbols of manufacturing, steel, shipping, railroads, farming, energy, mining, and banking which are preserved in the lobby.

Today the one million square-foot building is owned and managed by Roza 14 Wall LLC.

For Chief Engineer Ravi Dindial who has been at 14 Wall Street for more than 25 years, Roza is the latest of a string of owners. "We've been through half-dozen owners and several management companies since I've been

here," said Dindial.

While ownership has changed Dindial and his experienced crew of Adrian Padmore, John Drabczyk, Zamal Gaffoor and Romulo Martinez are still running the same three 800 ton steam turbines. Con Ed steam is used for both heating and cooling.

"There have been major upgrades in the lobby, the elevators and exterior," said Dindial. "But we haven't had a major retrofit in the engineering room in years," said Dindial.

"Everyone has been here at least 10 to 15 years, so we have the benefit of an experienced crew. We keep the building running," added Dindial.

They run well enough for 14 Wall Street to have earned an Energy Star rating in 2008, with a score of 91.

"We've managed to blend the 1950's equipment with the current technology," said Dindial. For example a Nexus BMS was installed more than 15 years ago was replaced with an Automated Logic system three years ago.

Even after the original BMS was installed Dindial kept the existing manual controls system in place. "Even if you have all the new technology this equipment here always works," said Dindial as his arm swept around the room. "I decided to keep everything operational. And, there have been times when the



14 Wall Street.



Top, Ravi Dindial, Chief. Above, Adrian Padmore, John Drabczyk, Ravi Dindial, Zamal Gaffoor and Romulo Martinez.

new technology has failed and I've been able to keep things going.

For the crew that means their workload hasn't changed much as the equipment is the same, the difference is they are now being controlled electronically. The crew performs most of the

maintenance work involving the chillers. "We overhauled those in 2008," said Dindial.

"Most of the maintenance on the chiller side we do ourselves. We're a very experienced crew. The chillers and the turbines must be overhauled every

3-5 years and one of the turbines is scheduled to be sent out this winter," explained Dindial.

"The process takes a month to 45 days. So we should have them all back and ready for the cooling season on April 15."

2013 Local 94 Summer Picnic



The Fall Golf Outing



Food, Family, Friends, Fun and a Helpful Boost for Local 94 Scholars

It was a perfect way to spend a perfect July Saturday. Friends and families gathered at tables sharing laughs and memories. All the while children enjoyed the pool, the rides the games and raffles. A lucky few even went home with a brand new bicycle.

That in a nutshell is what brings hundreds of our members along with their families and friends to the Local 94 Summer Picnic. From the welcome "goodie bag" presented at the front gate to the final cup of coffee the picnic is a pure celebration of family.

The Summer Picnic is also one of several Local 94 events where we raise money to support and fund the Local 94 Scholarship Program. And it is at the picnic when the names of the 2013 Scholarship winners are announced.

Again we extend our congratulations to Christina Corbo, Samantha Fraembs, Megan Italiano, Jeremy Kline, Jonathan Kline, Travis Nathan, Christopher Piro, Ashley Schindler,

Lisa-Marie Serrone, and Zackary Zapolsky.

The winners and their families will be formally honored and recognized on January 10, 2014 during the Annual Dinner-Dance at Russo's On the Bay.

In addition to those events, proceeds from both the Spring and Fall Golf Outings are used to support the scholarship program. More than 120 turned out for the September 30th "four-man scramble" played at Split Rock Golf Course in the Bronx. The team of Ed Baktis, Steve Weikerts, Rich Price, and Ken Montello took first prize with a score of 65.

Brian Flaherty smashed the longest drive and John Gaspar won the closest to the pin competition.

The big winners of all these events were the outstanding Local 94 scholars. Each of whom will receive \$8,000 in scholarship help over four years of college. Since its creation in 1996, Local 94 has awarded more than \$1.2 million in scholarships.





Thomas Hart

Chiller Upgrade Provides High Drama Above Broadway; Energy Efficiency for Morgan Stanley

A chiller replacement project provided some late night dramatics high above Broadway which will result in an energy efficient hit for Morgan Stanley.

To keep up with the global market Morgan Stanley's international headquarters at 1585 Broadway must be up and running 24/7, 365 days a year. "There are no alternatives, we have to maintain critical infrastructure," explained Engineering Manager Pat Reilly.

The challenge for Reilly, Chief Engineer Chris Hassett, and the Local 94 crew of Lou Laconti, Floy Wolf, Brian Berry, Anthony Rizzica, Kenny Murphy, Kevin Clerkin, Shaun Finn, Lou Story, Bill Laghezza, Gerard Connolly, Ed Doherty, Mike Gansas, Eugene Dimaandal, and Ronald White was keeping things running even as Morgan Stanley and its building manager Hines continue to upgrade the internal engineering.

The 42-story, 1.3 million square-foot glass and steel skyscraper located at the north end of the Times Square bowtie opposite Duffy Square opened in 1990. Even as it opened developer David Solomon was forced to file for bankruptcy and the building was

'Just the coordination with the more than 100 construction workers, machine operators and everyone else was a job. Our primary concern was to ensure there was no impact on the three major data centers.'

turned over to the banks who hired Hines LP to manage the property. The building was eventually purchased by Morgan Stanley in 1993 and retained Hines to manage the property.

From day one, the team of Morgan Stanley and Hines made a commitment to sustainability which continues to this day. Hines sustainability efforts are led by Daniel Pugliese, Vice President of Engineering. Armed with that commitment and working with Reilly, Hassett and their skilled Local 94 crew 1585 Broadway earned Energy Star status in 2012 and LEED Gold certification from the Green Building



From left, Patrick Reilly, Engineering Manager; Daniel Pugliese, Vice President of Engineering; Chris Hassett, Chief Engineer; Gerard Connolly, Asst. Chief Engineer; Floyd Wolf, Engineer; Louis LaConti, Engineer; Anthony Rizzica, Engineer; Kevin Clerkin, Engineer; Shaun Finn, Helper; Lew Story III, Engineer; Brian Berry, Engineer; Michael Gansas, Engineer; Eugene Dimaandal, Helper. Not shown: Joe Kularski, Asst Director of Engineering; Ken Weinert, Asst Director of Engineering; William Laghezza, Lead Engineer; Edward Doherty, Engineer; Kenny Murphy, Helper; Ronald White, Helper

Council earlier this year.

And no one is resting on their laurels. Over the course of the past several months 1585 Broadway has been involved in a complex upgrade and replacement of its three existing chillers. The work began in late September when two of Trane 1400 ton chillers were demolished to be replaced by a pair of Carrier 1600 ton units.

The third chiller, a Trane 750 ton

unit will be replaced with a SMARDT 1000.

According to Reilly the new 1600 ton Carrier units will have an efficiency of .262 kW/ton compared to the current 0.75 kW/ton of the older units. The new SMARDT 1000 ton chiller has an efficiency of 0.349 kW/ton compared to the 0.75 rating of the Trane 750 ton unit.

The job of hoisting the replacement

units nearly more than 60 feet up to the engineering floor began in mid-October when a portion of the exterior wall was removed and crane operators from Galasso Trucking hoisted the new equipment into the engineering floor.

Moving the equipment was daunting enough, the bigger challenge for the Local 94 team was maintaining the engineering operations throughout the transition. "Just the coordination

with the more than 100 construction workers, machine operators and everyone else was a job," said Reilly. "Our primary concern was to ensure there was no impact on the three major data centers."

As it turned out, it was outside the box thinking and creative engineering was the key to success: the engineers reconfigured the chiller plant. "We ran the chiller 4 reverse flow through chiller 3," Reilly explained. "And, we ran it like that for 2-and-a-half days," added Hassett. "We never missed a beat."

Scheduled for completion in early 2014, Reilly said the project is now 65-70 percent completed. "Right now we're getting all the new piping in place. Then there's the new steam station and all new fans and dampers," added Reilly.

Along with this work and the regular maintenance the crew has been involved in some sort major construction for the past six years. "We've been here weekend after weekend with these projects," said Hassett. "Sometimes you don't even know what day it is."

"It's good to be busy. And to work in a building where management is committed to sustainability."



*Ray Macco
Jack Redden*

Study at Training Center Opens Door to Green School Opportunity

As the newly appointed Building Manager/Chief Engineer at PS 51, Manhattan's newest "green school" Steve Velez is a long way from his days shoveling coal into the furnaces at PS 165 in Harlem.

A member of Local 94 since 1999 Velez began his career as a part-time cleaner at PS 165 in Harlem where his grandfather was a handyman and a member of Local 74. After his first summer working alongside his grandfather custodian Bob Cooper offered Velez a full-time position.

That offer came with one condition: "I had to promise I would continue to study," said Velez.

That was in 1989. Today nearly 25 years later and now working as a chief, Velez is still hitting the books.

It was in 1999 when a move to PS 121 also resulted in Velez union representation moving from Local 74 to Local 94. "I didn't realize it at the time, but becoming a member of Local 94 also brought with it

the opportunities and facilities of the Training Center.

"It was the best thing that ever happened to me," he said.

And although he is not required to enroll in any of the Training Center courses Velez continues to keep that long ago promise.

As a Temco employee with the Department of Education, Velez confessed he was more than a little apprehensive when he first entered the Training Center classroom. "To be honest, I was a little intimidated when I walked into the Training Center with all these guys from the big commercial buildings," he admitted.

"But everyone I met there made it clear they were there to help. Howard Styles, Bob Fantine, Lucy and everyone else at

the Training Center made sure I knew they would do everything they could to make sure I would succeed," said Velez.

All lingering doubts disappeared completely when in his first class

'I didn't realize it at the time, but becoming a member of Local 94 also brought with it the opportunities and facilities of the Training Center. It was the best thing that ever happened to me.'



PS 51 custodian Steven Velez stands in front of new boilers.

instructor Joe Olgiati spoke three simple words: Knowledge is power.

"Those words really struck me," said Velez. And Velez has stuck with the Training Center. Over the course of the past dozen years Velez has not only completed all of the commercial building required courses, he has also completed many of the advanced courses.

He has his refrigeration ticket as well as sprinkler, air compressor, internal fire alarm, fire guard and CFC licenses and/or certificates. "Right now I am taking the critical systems course and will start the BOMI class in January."

All that classwork paid off in August when while on vacation and driving through Texas, Velez received a phone asking him to return to New York right away. "They offered me the job here at PS 51," said Velez.

Of all the possibilities within the DOE, it was ironic that Velez would be hired at PS 51. "I worked at night at the original PS 51 on the next block. At the old 114 year-old school I was responsible for running the furnace at night for a church program held in the school," said Velez.

"Because it was just a block away from Local 94 it was easy for me to



Installation work has yet to be completed inside the electrical room.

take my classes."

Today's PS 51 is far cry from its century-old predecessor. "The old school didn't even have a gym or a lunchroom. They used the auditorium for all three purposes."

The new 51 not only has a state-of-art lunchroom and kitchen, it boasts two gyms, with an adjoining playground as well as a rooftop playground.

Package units are located on the roof and the state-of-art building includes an internal fire pump system, a pair of gas-fired boilers, and a diesel fueled emergency generator.

Velez is able to monitor and control everything through a BMS at his desk.

"Thanks to the training offered through Local 94, I am confident in working with everything in this building. If it were not for the encouragement of the members and the people at Local 94 I would not be here.

I could never thank the union for their help and their support for the training program," said Velez. "Who knows where I'd be without those classes. And they're free!

You've got to be crazy not to take advantage of that kind of free knowledge!"



Mike Gadaleta
Kelly Drummond

Teamwork Keys Sustainability, Hospitality & Comfort at the Hilton

When he was an engineering student in his native Egypt Nabil Salem's dream was to operate a steam turbine. And in 1985, six years after arriving in America Salem fulfilled his dream when he joined the Local 94 engineering crew at the New York Hilton.

The largest hotel in New York City, the 47-story, 2,100-room Hilton was powered by a 1,600-ton steam turbine. "That turbine was the reason I wanted to come to work at the New York Hilton. Except from what I learned in my books I had never even seen a steam turbine in Egypt," said Salem.

"I was so proud and thrilled to work with that engine for 14 years. Let me tell you all the computers and new technology is wonderful," explained Salem. "When you're running a turbine you know you're doing something. You are an engineer."

The turbine is long gone, replaced by four 800-ton and two 250-ton chillers as part of a \$145-million hotel renovation in 1998. Now the lead engineer Salem is one of five Local 94 members working at the Hilton. Others represented by Local 94 are: Watch Engineers Afreh Ebenezer, David Cruz, Tivador Papp and Ventilation Mechanic Danny Hernandez.

The Local 94 team help comprise a small army of more than 45

carpenters, electricians, plumbers, firemen-oilers, mechanics, helpers and locksmiths represented by the Hotel Trades Council under the supervision of Mike Smith, the Director of Property Operations and Assistant Director of Property Manger Engineer Jaime Fernandez.

All are dedicated to the safety and comfort of the guests.

Now celebrating its 50th anniversary, the New York Hilton is not only New York's largest hotel, it has served as the home away from home for presidents, royalty, diplomats, celebrities, stars and rock and roll icons from Elvis to the Beatles.

Since its opening in June of 1963, the New York Hilton has not only been visited by every sitting President, (President Clinton even took time to pose for a photo with the kitchen staff); it was where the first cellphone call was made by inventor Martin Copper; and did you know John Lennon wrote the lyrics to Imagine on New York Hilton stationary?

The hotel's Sixth Avenue location between 53d and 54th Streets just a short walk from Rockefeller Center and Radio City may explain part of its attraction. Or more likely is Hilton's continuous investment to refurbish and reinvent the hotel. Why else



The New York Hilton.

Below, left to right, Local 56 member Mike Mendez, Director of Property Operations Mike Smith, Nabil Salem, Noel Salgado and Assistant Manager for Property Operations Jaime Fernandez.

"To ensure the guests are as comfortable in their rooms as in the public spaces, the crew is able to monitor the conditions in each of 1,980 rooms using the system called Control Green. We can trouble-shoot everything from right here in the engine room."

would they reduce the number of rooms from 2,100 to 1,980?

And over the course of those 50 years, the hotel has not limited its investments to renovations of its lobby,



guest rooms, meeting rooms and other public spaces. Hilton management is as committed to energy efficiency and sustainability as they are in the care and comfort of their guests.

Fifteen years ago the hotel introduced a computerized monitoring system called Control IQ, which allows the engineering crew to monitor conditions in all the hotels meeting and

public spaces.

According to Salem "the Hilton isn't a hotel it's really a convention center with 2,000 rooms."

And, to ensure the guests are as comfortable in their rooms as in the public spaces, the crew is able to monitor the conditions in each of 1,980 rooms using the system called Control Green. "We can trouble-shoot everything from right here in the engine room," said Salem.

"There is even a system which sends a voice mail to the vent mechanic when there is a problem," he added.

"The computer systems and technology are wonderful," said Salem recalling the days when engineers worked two hours every morning just to power up the hotel. "Everything was done manually; we'd start at 4 am to have everything running by 6."

For all the technological advances the job of an engineer at the Hilton hasn't changed. "We may be in the engine room but working in the hotel we still interact with guests. We know the Secret Service people by name; we meet guests and people from all over the world, many with different needs.

"Working together with everyone in the building we ensure we keep them comfortable, meet their needs, and their stay is enjoyable."

From Backpacks to Rooftops Local 94 is Ready to Lend a Hand

More than 100 young students in the Bronx were once again able to start the school year with new backpacks and school supplies thanks to your generosity. Now in its second year the "Operation Backpack" provides backpacks and school supplies donated by the members of Local 94 to students enrolled in the BronxWorks Community Center afterschool program.

The expressions of joy and appreciation spoke volumes as each of the students rocked their backpacks. But as BronxWorks Interim Executive Director Eileen Torres noted in a thank you letter to Kelly Drummond and Tom Hart who coordinated the drive, those backpacks and supplies are more than just an accessory.

"Nearly one-third of the local families have reported annual incomes of less than \$10,000...80 percent of families who live in the South Bronx lack the income to meet basic needs," wrote Torres. As Torres noted at the conclusion of her letter, "The backpacks and school supplies mean less outlay of their family's limited income so this support has far-reaching impact far beyond the joy brought to the kids!"

So, thank you to everyone who helped to make "Operation Backpack" a success.



Helping the Boy Scouts on Staten Island

In what is also seems to be an annual tradition nearly a dozen members Local 94 members spent a September morning helping out at Pouch Camp on Staten Island. Volunteers first visited the camp in 2011 and helped to plant 94 new saplings.

Keeping their promise to return the crew of Local 94 volunteers helped move boulders in a water diversion project to address an erosion problem at the camp. This year a Local 94 volunteer team of Ray Macco, Dan Van Skiver, Timothy Clark, Matthew Barr, John Cancel, John Cancel, Jr., George Dirzis, Daniel Chance and Gerard Streicher helped carry mulch for a pair of climbing walls; removed some old fencing and took apart a stage.



Operation Backpack.

Local 94 White Roof Project Team.



And a Painting Project in Harlem

Local 94 volunteers once again helped out the White Roof Project, this time painting the roof of a non-profit owned residential building in Harlem.

Sharing Local 94's commitment to sustainability and energy efficiencies by painting urban rooftops the White Roof Project impacts the Urban Heat Island Effect created by dark roofs.

Last year the team of Local 94 volunteers worked on a building on the Lower East Side. "And, they were the fastest group of painters we've ever had," gushed Heather James of the White Roof Project. "When we heard

they were coming back we made sure we had a larger roof."

Despite the fact that the building in Harlem was twice the size as the one painted last year, Ray Macco, Robert Burton, Thomas Barr, Michael O'Neill, Paul Weiss, Ryan DeSantis, William Caramico, Michael Andrews, Judith Koonce, Wesley Habether, Daniel Twohig, Carlos Hosking, German Ruano, and Qemal Xhano, were able to finish their work in less than two hours.

"The Local 94 Team is easily the fastest team we've ever worked with. They were finished before lunch," said James. "I wish we had more volunteers like them. In meantime, we'll look for larger roofs."



SEPTEMBER 11, 2013

A Bittersweet Day of Remembrance and Renewal

The day began by honoring our heroes and ended with an eye toward the future of our local.

September 11th will forever be a day of remembrance for all New Yorkers and people of good will throughout the world. The day also holds a special place in the hearts of the members of

this local as we celebrate the lives of our heroic brothers Vito DeLeo, John Grifin, Charles McGee and David Williams; our "Unsung Heroes" who paid the ultimate price in the effort to help others evacuate the towers after the horrific and murderous attacks on the morning of September 11, 2001.

'No one paid a higher price than Local 94 for what happened on September 11, 2001.'

And, on the morning of September we fulfilled our vow to ourselves and their families to never forget our heroes with a Memorial Mass at St. Malachy's R.C. Church. During that same Mass Father Richard Baker also led the gathering in offering memorial prayers for all our brothers and sisters who have died in the previous year.

May they rest in peace.

The inauguration of our Local 94 Executive Board for another three-year term provided a more joyful and optimistic conclusion to the day.

IUOE International President James Callahan along with New York State AFL-CIO President Mario Cilento and leaders from our brother IUOE locals and other unions and guests joined us to offer congratulations to the Board.

President Callahan presided over the ceremony and issued the oath noted the bittersweet timing. "No one paid a higher price than Local 94 for what happened on September 11, 2001. You held up your local. You all stood strong and should be proud," said Callahan.

With the overwhelming support of the membership and a committed leadership Local 94 has good reason to be proud.



Howard Styles
Bob Fantine

As Sandy Spurs Investment Local 94 Will Make On-site Training Available

More than a year after Super Storm Sandy devastated the northeast the effects of the storm are still being felt in ways often unseen. Beyond all the physical damage the storm created a new sense of urgency in preparedness for future events.

And, the storm will also have a major impact on energy costs. In early October Con Ed announced they would be seeking a \$450 million rate increase. The utility said the increases of 8% for electricity; 2.5% for natural gas and 2.3% for steam were necessary to restore and upgrade equipment damaged by the storm.

While Governor Andrew Cuomo quite publicly denounced the Con Ed request, there is little doubt there will be some kind of increase somewhere down the line.

There is no doubt the damage from the storm will affect energy costs. But there is a real fear that another storm like Sandy will leave building managers without heat or power and so, owners and managers are looking at alternatives for generating heat and power.

And many of those who have the resources are deciding that rather than replace equipment they will move to the next generation of technology.

The trend toward self-sufficiency is leading some managers and engineers back to the Training Center. Especially



Lower Manhattan in darkness after Hurricane Sandy in October, 2012.

now that Low Pressure Boilers will be added to the energy mix in larger commercial buildings.

Low Pressure Boiler training has always been available at the Training Center, but the course has been geared to school employees where this type of equipment is more prevalent.

Officials from Boston Properties have already reached out to the Training Center looking to engage Local 94 in Low Pressure Boiler training.

Boston Properties is now in the process of commissioning a trio of Cleaver

Brooks packaged Firetube hot water low emissions boilers. Two of the boilers (model 4WI 200-600-125 HW) are 600 H.P. and the third is a smaller (4WI 200-125-125 HW) 125 H.P.

All three boilers are dual fuel, Natural Gas and Number 2 Fuel Oil.

Each boiler is equipped with Hawk ICS advanced combustion control system configured for parallel positioning combustion control, oxygen trim, variable speed drive control of combustion air fan and integral boiler draft control system.

The boiler plant is equipped with Cleaver Brooks Hawk ICS Master Panel which will provide modulating boiler lead lag control of all three HW Boilers and the primary hot water circulating pumps.

Once the equipment has been commissioned Local 94 will provide on-site training for the seven Local 94 engineers. Yes, on-site training; when appropriate Local 94 does provide versatile, customized training for our membership.

Along with the on-site training, representatives of Boston Properties have expressed interest in preparing all of their Chiefs and Ace's in attaining the LEED GA certification.

We are now developing this course which will be conducted at the Training Center.

Raising Awareness and Dollars in Seeking Cures



Time and again the members of Local 94 give of their time and resources to help others in ways both large and small.

Led by Local 94 Vice President Tom Costello more than 70 members and their families participated in the Fifth Annual Brain Aneurysm Awareness Walk at Jones Beach.

In all, the September 28th event raised than \$70,000 for the Brain Aneurysm Foundation and the Brain Aneurysm Center of North Shore/Long Island Jewish Hospital Center.

On Sunday October 6th more than a dozen Local 94 members and their families participated in the Diabetes Research Foundation Walk to Cure Diabetes in Flushing Meadows Park.

Joining Tom Costello and Tom Hart were Robert and Jennifer Rivera, Kevin Marieke Martin, Joseph Shearin, Len Santeufemia, Michael Silvestri, Ralph Price and others. In all, the Local 94 Team raised \$4,080 surpassing their \$3,000 goal by 136%!

Later that same week Local 94 was again well represented as EMCOR Penguin and union officials helped create the Pink Hard Hat Ribbon helping to raise more than \$75,000 for the Evelyn H. Lauder Breast Cancer Center of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

In all, more than 500 men and

Local 94 was well represented as Emcor Penguin and union officials helped create the Pink Hard Hat Ribbon helping to raise more than \$75,000 for the Evelyn H. Lauder Breast Cancer Center of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. In all, more than 500 men and women posed for the largest ribbon ever formed in New York City.



Top, showing Local 94 pride at the Fifth Annual Brain Aneurysm Awareness Walk at Jones Beach. Above, Local 94 members were joined by their families for the annual Juvenile Diabetes Foundation Walk in Flushing Meadows Park. Joining Tom Costello and Tom Hart were Robert and Jennifer Rivera, Kevin Marieke Martin, Joseph Shearin, Len Santeufemia, Michael Silvestri, Ralph Price and others. In all, the Local 94 Team raised \$4,080 surpassing their \$3,000 goal by 136%!

women in pink hard hats took part in the event creating the largest human “ribbon” ever formed in New York City.

A contingent of officers and Business Agents from Local 94 including

Costello, John Kramer, Tom Hart, Jack Redden and Kelly Drummond also joined the more than 500 men and women in pink hard hats took part in the event creating the largest human

“ribbon” ever formed in New York City.

Along with the New York City event EMCOR and its clients created four other Pink Hard Hat Ribbons across the United States.



Kathy Fisler

What the Affordable Health Care Act means to You Under the Local 94 Health & Benefit Fund

Despite the glitches plaguing the government's website with the roll out of the nation's new health care program the Affordable Care Act is still scheduled to be up and running as of January 1, 2014. That means you'll be still be hearing a lot about "Marketplaces" and "Exchanges." And in fact, you may (or should) have received a notice from your employer about the coverage options to be offered under the Marketplaces and your coverage under the Local 94 Health and Benefit Fund.

Beyond all the noise surrounding this complicated program, as an ACTIVE participant in the Local 94 Fund, you will not be affected by the new law. Again, as an ACTIVE participant in the Local 94 Fund your coverage is considered affordable and adequate under the Affordable Care Act. You do not need to shop for different or additional insurance.

ACA was generally written to account for employer sponsored coverage where a single employer offers health coverage directly to its employees either on an insured or self-insured basis. And while the ACA is also applicable to multiemployer plans (such as the Local 94 Fund), many aspects of the law did not take into account the

benefits of such coverage in terms of affordability, eligibility or administration.

The Local 94 Fund will continue to provide all ACTIVE participants with an excellent program of medical benefits. The important thing to remember is, the Local 94 Fund coverage is deemed affordable and currently meets ACA's minimum value standard, meaning that the plan covers at least 60% of the total allowed benefit costs for such coverage. As such, if you are eligible for benefits as an ACTIVE participant through the Local 94 Fund, you do not have to (and are not required) to purchase any other health care coverage as of or after January 1, 2014.

It is also important to know, that because of the affordability and adequacy of the Local 94 Fund's coverage, you are not eligible for federal premium subsidies.

If you are Retired

As a RETIRED participant you do not have an employer and, therefore, employer contributions are not made to the Local 94 Fund on your behalf. In order to see what benefits, if any, you are entitled to under the Local 94 Fund; please contact the Fund



Office's Health Benefits Department at 212-331-1800 or log onto www.local94.com for specific details about the retiree health coverage offered to RETIRED participants for the Commercial or School Divisions.

If you choose not to elect retiree coverage under the Local 94 Fund, you may qualify to get lower costs on your monthly premiums for coverage obtained in the Marketplace depending on your income and family size. As a reminder, if you have Medicare, the Marketplace isn't for you.

Loss of Coverage and COBRA

The only time you may want to shop for coverage in the Marketplace (or elsewhere) is if you lose coverage as an ACTIVE or RETIRED participant under the Local 94 Fund, or are a RETIRED participant who pays a premium for coverage under the Local 94 Fund and is not on Medicare. If you are on Medicare you are considered covered and cannot use the Marketplace to buy a supplemental policy. As a reminder, in certain circumstances, the Local 94 Fund will offer COBRA, which is a continuation of coverage for eligible employees and dependents that lose coverage due to a COBRA qualifying event. If you qualify for CO-

BRA, you will have the option at your expense to purchase COBRA coverage for up to 18 or 36 months depending upon the qualifying event. Nevertheless, your financial situation may be such in these circumstances that you may want to purchase less comprehensive coverage (which may be less expensive) through the Marketplace, or find an insurance plan that meets your needs and fits your budget. If you decide to keep your COBRA coverage under the Local 94 Fund after you consider these other coverage options, you don't need to take any further action other than to keep making your required monthly COBRA premium payments on time to the Local 94 Fund.

As always we encourage you to contact the Fund Office if you have questions about the information in this newsletter, the coverage options available in the Marketplace or your health insurance coverage as either an ACTIVE or RETIRED participant under the Local 94 Fund. You can call directly at 212-331-1800 or log on to the Local 94 website at www.local94.com. Information about the coverage options and subsidy assistance offered in the health insurance Marketplace is also available at www.healthcare.gov.



Patricia Sheehan

Are you a Helper hired since 2011? Are you being paid correctly?

Helpers covered by the Realty Advisory Board Agreement, hired new in the industry received a starting pay rate of 70% of the current Helper minimum rate.

Helpers must present a certificate of satisfactory participation, letter of enrollment or completion of the Training Program in order to be eligible for each step increase until they reach the full current Helper minimum rate.

Depending on your date of hire, this could mean up to three (3) increases per year until you reach full Helper rate (two incremental and the annual increase in accordance with the collective bargaining agreement). If you are not sure you are being paid correctly, please call the Union Office at 212-245-7040. When you call please have your paystub and your start date readily available. With this information, the Union will advise you if your employer is paying the correct hourly wage.

It is your responsibility to obtain a copy of the completion certificate for each class or letter confirming your participation in the Program semester from the Training Program. These must be submitted to your employer to prove your eligibility for the increase on the six month and annual anniversary of your date of hire. The Union Staff can provide you with a list of your increases and when they should be effective, provided you are enrolled in the Training Program.

Important: Please note you must meet the requirements of the contract and attend classes regularly for the full three year program. Any current student who has a personal or health issue that has prevented attendance to two or more classes in a semester should contact the Training Fund and their Business Agent immediately to arrange for make-up classes. Failure to do so will result in suspension from the Training Program and termination from the job.

Reminder: Please remember, anytime your hourly wage increases, your monthly dues increase as well. If you are on Dues Check-Off and your employer does not adjust the dues withholding, YOU are responsible for any dues which are unpaid. If you have any question about your monthly dues or your hourly wage, contact the Union Office at 212-245-7040.

Did You Know You Can Track Your Annuity Fund Account on the Go?

Did you know you can easily check your Local 94 Annuity Fund account balance and view other information with your mobile device? Use your smartphone or mobile enabled device to log on to www.ibenefitcenter.com. A mobile-friendly version of key pages will automatically display for optimal viewing. You can view your current account balance, investment elections, and view education materials. Log on today!



Calendar of Events

2013

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

General Membership Meeting

Times: **8:30 a.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m.**

Meetings are held at the Hotel Trades Council Auditorium, 305 West 44th Street



Thursday, December 12, 2013

Annual Holiday Toy & Coat Drive

Once again we are collecting "gently used" coats and new, unwrapped toys for those in our neighborhood who are less fortunate. All donated coats and toys will be distributed by St. Malachy's Church and Hartley House, a not-for-profit organization serving those who live and work in Hell's Kitchen since 1897. **For more information please contact Jack Redden (212)245-7935 or jackredden@local94.com**

Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

2014

Tuesday, January 7

Initiation Ceremony for New Members

Time: **4 p.m.**

Initiation Ceremony will be held at the Hotel Trades Council Auditorium, 305 West 44th Street

New members who were notified to attend and paid the \$100 application bond who attend the Initiation Ceremony will be refunded the \$100 application bond.

Please call 212-245-7040 if you have any questions

Wednesday, January 8

General Membership Meeting

Times: **8:30 a.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m.**

Meetings are held at the Hotel Trades Council Auditorium, 305 West 44th Street

Friday, January 10

Local 94 Annual Scholarship Fund Dinner-Dance

Time: **7 PM**

Russo's on the Bay, 162-45 Cross Bay Blvd, Howard Beach, NY

Wednesday, February 12

General Membership Meeting

Times: **8:30 a.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m.**

Meetings are held at the Hotel Trades Council Auditorium, 305 West 44th Street

Wednesday, March 12

General Membership Meeting

Times: **8:30 a.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m.**

Meetings are held at the Hotel Trades Council Auditorium, 305 West 44th Street

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

General Membership Meeting

Times: **8:30 a.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m.**

Meetings are held at the Hotel Trades Council Auditorium, 305 West 44th Street



2013 Scholarship Fund Dinner-Dance.

Wednesday, May 14

General Membership Meeting

Times: **8:30 a.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m.**

Meetings are held at the Hotel Trades Council Auditorium, 305 West 44th Street

Wednesday, June 11

Service Award Ceremony

Time: **5 p.m.**

Ceremony will be held at the Hotel Trades Council Auditorium, 305 West 44th Street

Members with 25, 30, 35, 40 and 50 years of service will receive an invitation. All members are encouraged to attend.

Please call 212-245-7040 if you have any questions



Wednesday, June 11

General Membership Meeting

Times: **8:30 a.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m.**

Meetings are held at the Hotel Trades Council Auditorium, 305 West 44th Street

No meetings are scheduled in July and August

Wednesday, September 10

General Membership Meeting

Times: **8:30 a.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m.**

Meetings are held at the Hotel Trades Council Auditorium, 305 West 44th Street

Wednesday, October 8

General Membership Meeting

Times: **8:30 a.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m.**

Meetings are held at the Hotel Trades Council Auditorium, 305 West 44th Street

Wednesday, November 12

General Membership Meeting

Times: **8:30 a.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m.**

Meetings are held at the Hotel Trades Council Auditorium, 305 West 44th Street

Wednesday, December 10

General Membership Meeting

Times: **8:30 a.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m.**

Meetings are held at the Hotel Trades Council Auditorium, 305 West 44th Street



Membership meeting.

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