



# The Carpenter

New York City & Vicinity District Council Of Carpenters  
SUMMER 2018

## JFK and LGA Airports Get Heavy Construction

### IN THIS ISSUE:

Local 2790 and Tatco Start  
Finishing Revolution

49th Annual Apprenticeship  
Open House & Exhibit

## A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE SECRETARY-TREASURER

# JOSEPH GEIGER

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**W**e are all too familiar with the trends in our industry and the local market that are a result of the rise of open-shop. It is because of these changes that your leadership at the District Council has looked for ways to remain competitive, lower our overall cost structure, and ultimately build opportunities for the membership. I am proud to announce that by making proactive changes to meet the demands of the evolving market, we have managed to secure 800,000 hours of additional work this year. By modernizing our approach to the market, we are successfully expanding opportunities for our members and contractors.

As your leadership, we have a responsibility to our membership of over 20,000. We are dedicated to guaranteeing that every one of our members has a pathway to a stable, working-class lifestyle through good paying jobs, career opportunities, healthcare, and retirement benefits. We can only do this by adapting to the changes in our industry. This District Council, and the unionized construction industry as a whole, cannot remain stuck in the ways of the past while the industry evolves around us. Modernizing our approach is the only way to ensure we can put our members to work, produce the highest quality work, and make job sites safer across New York.

Ultimately, we operate in the private market. To secure expanded opportunities for all of our members, the District Council – under the leadership of myself and the executive team – has made several changes. These changes include adjustments to the collective bargaining agreements

that have made our partners more competitive, embracing a drug-free workforce, creating new locals like the Concrete Carpenters Local 212 with provisional members, and investing even further in training.

It is no coincidence that the industry is experiencing a rise in the number of construction-related injuries and deaths. The facts show that these incidents are less likely to happen on union sites. This is why we are investing greatly in safety and training that stresses the importance of bringing these practices to each work site we step foot on. By remaining competitive and securing work on new types of job sites, our members are bringing their safety and training standards to worksites across New York.

Our number one priority is to provide stable, middle-class jobs for our members. Unfortunately, a small number of members within our ranks either do not have a full understanding of the New York City construction market or will oppose the direction of the District Council at any cost. With union opposition mounting locally and nationally, this is no time for union members to be attacking other union members. Your leadership pledges to keep doing our part to provide our members with rigorous training, good paying jobs, and new opportunities.

September 28 is the Centennial of the New York City District Council of Carpenters. Our ability to never rest and continue to work together and fight for our union and the benefits it provides has allowed us to stand the test time. For 100 years, we've been a force for good in this city, have made it strong, and have been a foundation



for the members that call it home. We've come a long way since our inception 100 years ago and it has not been without hardship. We've had to adapt, innovate, and continue to fight for workers' rights, fair wages, safety, and our place at the table. Through everything that's happened in our past, we still provide an opportunity unlike any other to those who are willing to work hard and invest in the union. We are constantly leading the charge against those who would take away everything we've worked for. I promise you that the District Council is ready to take on the next 100 years with even more tenacity and innovation. As long as we keep our ideals strong, this foundation will never crack.

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph A. Geiger". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

# Table of Contents

<b>2</b>	A Letter from the Executive Secretary - Treasurer
<b>4</b>	Letters from the President and Vice President
<b>7</b>	SITB Featured News and Notes
<b>14</b>	Member Spotlights
<b>16</b>	Area Standards
<b>17</b>	Upcoming Training Programs at UBC
<b>18</b>	Political Action
<b>20</b>	Letters from the Inspector General and Chief Compliance Officer
<b>22</b>	Jobs Around Town
<b>25</b>	Millwrights: Job Spotlights
<b>26</b>	Apprentice Open House & Exhibit
<b>28</b>	Local 2790's New Technology with Tatco
<b>34</b>	Recent Retirees and In Memoriam



**Local 2790 and Tatco Start Finishing Revolution**  
pages 28-29

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**NYC Airports Getting Rebuilt**  
pages 30-33



## The Carpenter

is a Union magazine that promotes union values. Published by and for the New York City & Vicinity District Council of Carpenters. All content, copy, pictures, and/or images are created and edited, or used with permission, by the Communications Department of the District Council.

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Address change notices should be directed to 212-366-7336.

## A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

# GRAHAM MCHUGH

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**L**et me begin by saying that it is a privilege and an honor to serve as your President and humbling to be chosen to help grow and protect this great union. As I approach 30 years with the carpenters union, I bring with me experience from a number of onsite, interoffice, and local union leadership roles, including serving as a Council Representative, Delegate, and eventually, President of Local 157. My experiences have given me the skills necessary to succeed and transition into this role. With the backing of my Brothers and Sisters, I vow to serve you—the members—as I have in each of my previous positions.

We have been focused on fostering more collaboration between our Business Reps and Area Standards Reps. This is aimed at making all of our representatives more proficient at handling any situation they find in their work. The construction industry is ever-changing, and adaptability is key. By unleashing their talent in both respects, we are able to see gains we otherwise would have missed. Sharing the skills cultivated by the different types of agents will only increase their ability to get things done on the jobsite. Similar to how a carpenter with a list of certifications as long as their leg will always find work, a business agent with more knowledge of what is happening onsite will always find a situation in which they can be helpful and productive.

Another organizing agenda we are putting together is a grassroots effort to show up at shareholders' meetings for large corporations that are building in New York City. As you may or may not know, a voter with a single share of stock can show up to any shareholder meeting and voice their opinion on the issues being discussed, and thanks to our retirement and pension accounts through the District Council Benefits Fund, we are represented in a lot of different large corporations doing business here.

This goes both ways however: while we would like to voice opinions against decisions we disagree with, we also would like to congratulate companies that are doing great work. A good example is JP Morgan Chase, which will be rebuilding a headquarters at 270 Park using union carpenters. To show up and let them know just how much that helps our communities, our families, and our membership is just as important as voicing displeasure with an unscrupulous contractor. We want to be on every project in the city, making sure that safety and the middle class are always taken into consideration when a big building goes up. Oftentimes, kindness can speak louder than conflict.

Lastly, I want to talk about a project that I've been heavily involved in over the last year. In partnership with HEART 9/11, the District Council is giving back in ways we couldn't before, but that we are very well suited to do. As you read about in our last issue, providing disaster relief after the hurricane in Puerto Rico is a large part of that, and our membership has stepped up immensely. Those who went down know just how rewarding and eye-opening the experience was, and are encouraging others to help. If you'd like to help out, the application can be done entirely online (find it on the District Council website), and we are always looking for more members to sign up and ship out. This relief effort will be going on for a very long time as the destruction has been unheard of this year. But if you'd like to give back while staying a little closer to home, HEART 9/11 is offering the opportunity for that as well. We have partnered with them on a number of "home builds" for veterans and disabled community members, allowing us to lend our skills to such a worthy cause.



Recently, members helped construct more accessible platforms and pathways for the Serenity Stables Farm in Atlantic Highlands, NJ, a place dedicated to helping our military heroes heal through simply being a part of a horse's life. We do similar builds with HEART 9/11, and if you'd like to get involved, you can reach out to me or anyone with their organization to help out.

Once again, thank you for entrusting me with this leadership position, and I promise that I will do everything in my power to be a force for good for every single member we have.

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Graham McHugh". The signature is fluid and cursive.

## A LETTER FROM OUR VICE PRESIDENT

# MICHAEL CAVANAUGH

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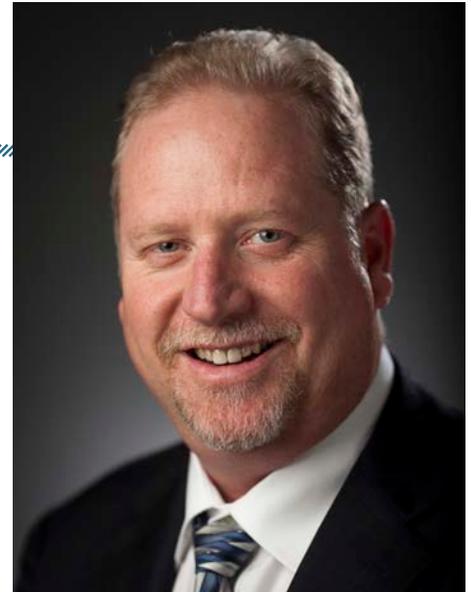
**T**here are always examples on display of how important training is to an industry like ours. In this issue alone, we have instances of all skill levels of our membership seeking out advanced training for both proficiency and personal leadership. The expertise of every trade we represent is ever expanding, just like the sites and situations we find ourselves working on and in every day.

I want to congratulate our graduating apprentice class this year and draw attention to the excellent skills on display at this year's Annual Apprenticeship Open House & Exhibit. Every year we have visitors who are astounded by the breadth of knowledge and ability on our training center's floors, the care that the instructors and staff of the training center take in producing such an exhibit, and the strong partnerships we have with vendors and support organizations that show up to help our open house be a success. It's an annual reminder that we are doing things exactly right: training the next generation of skilled construction workers to be leaders in their industry, collaborating with companies and contractors and leading the industry in a direction that benefits our membership. And while these apprentices have completed the first chapter of their long careers, the next chapter of being a Journeyman is even greater. To those new graduates I say: Keep your focus sharp, keep your skills up, and keep your union strong, and you will reap the benefits of your dedication and training.

We hosted another successful recruitment for incoming apprentices in April, another reminder of just how special this union is. People do not wait in line for days at a time, through rain and shine, to become a part of just any organization; but as you well know, if it means becoming a union carpenter, it is a wait well worth it.

The day you get your union card should be remembered as the day you received an opportunity to start a career and earn the benefits our members enjoy so much. This new group of apprentices can be assured that if they're willing to work hard and invest in the union, the rewards can be life changing.

The Next Level Journeymen program is the newest addition to the UBC's successful set of training programs being offered at our International Training Center in Las Vegas. These programs are sending our Journeymen back out into the field equipped with new skills and ready to take on new challenges. We've also seen remarkable returns from the 300 Hitters program thanks to our members taking the lessons they learn straight to the jobsite. So to make our position in this market even stronger, we're going to keep utilizing all training programs to their fullest extent, continue getting you the knowledge you need to succeed, and help our union be in a better position to provide for our membership. Though it seems like a hassle to take time off work and travel across the country, I promise you that these classes are revolutionizing our presence in the industry. We're no longer content to sit back and watch our opportunities dwindle: instead we are taking the fight to the non-union sector and proving to the industry that there is only one way to get work done in this city, and that is with union carpenters. These training programs do an excellent job of distilling this down to actionable skills that can be taken on jobsites, and the more members we have with those skills in hand, the more we can take back our market and give our membership the necessary opportunities to succeed. If you haven't applied for any of our training programs yet, you can easily do so online with the District Council website or by talking to your business agent.



There is no doubt that the Carpenters Training Center provides some of the best training available for leadership skills, safety, and numerous other skills. The value these skills bring to our members is immeasurable as members will continue to benefit from them for years to come. I urge members to help improve our great union and use the resources available at our training center to become the best trained unionized workforce in the industry.

And always remember, solidarity = success.

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Cavanaugh". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

# NYCDCC RAISES QUARTER OF A MILLION DOLLARS FOR JARED ALLEN'S HOMES FOR WOUNDED WARRIORS

On August 10, 2018, the New York City and Vicinity District Council of Carpenters (NYCDCC) hosted its annual charity golf tournament to sponsor Jared Allen's Homes for Wounded Warriors (JAH4WW). The District Council successfully raised a quarter of a million dollars for JAH4WW, an organization that works to build and remodel handicap accessible homes for injured U.S. military veterans. The tournament was held at Crystal Springs Resort in New Jersey and received a great turnout of supporters.

Over the past four years, the District Council has raised \$675,000 for the organization, and union carpenters from across the country have volunteered to build homes for U.S. military veterans and their families to honor their service and sacrifice for our country.

This year, the work of JAH4WW hits close to home for the District Council. In addition to \$250,000 raised by the District Council, \$75,000 was donated by the District Council Charity Fund and the NYC District Council of Carpenters Benefits Funds Charity for one of the Council's own members, Arian Kohler.



Arian Kohler is a second-year apprentice with Local 157 and a U.S. Marine veteran, serving two tours in Afghanistan. While on a volunteer mission with HEART/911 this summer to rebuild homes devastated by hurricanes Irma and Maria in Puerto Rico, Arian tragically lost his leg as the result of a collision with a vehicle while on foot. The incident nearly cost him his life.



Arian is a dedicated father to Mila and devoted fiancé to Jasmin. He has a loving family including his mother, father, sister and so many more. Arian has a larger than life personality and an uncanny ability to bring people together for a common cause. He is always willing to help whenever needed, and his spirit and positive

outlook on life are infectious. It is this positivity, along with the love and support of his family and union Brothers and Sisters, that has helped guide Arian in his recovery.

"We are proud of our brother, Arian Kohler, for his service to our country. He serves as an example to all of us, not only in the way he served his country as a Marine but also the way he's continued that life of service to others as a civilian including volunteering in Puerto Rico," Executive Secretary-Treasurer Joseph Geiger said.



## LIGHTHOUSE PROJECT UPDATE

Area Standards helped five exploited workers receive paychecks totaling over \$15,000 for unpaid wages and overtime work at the Lighthouse Point Project in St. George on Staten Island.

According to an article on the incident, “Construction Directions LLC pleaded guilty to petit larceny after failing to compensate several workers at the Bay Street construction site in May and June of last year.” The subcontractor has since repaid the workers in full plus a penalty.

The Lighthouse Point Project is a \$250 million, 115-unit luxury apartment complex that will also house retail, office space, a Westin Hotel, and a fresh food market.

The market boasts a 7,000 sq. ft space, offering healthy, affordable produce, meats, and fresh bread. The space will also include a parking lot that can fit 300 cars.



EST Joseph Geiger receiving the 2018 Labor Leader of the Year Award from the Subcontractors Trade Association

## SISTERS IN THE BROTHERHOOD

The Sisters in the Brotherhood are making strides once again this year.

Sinade Wadsworth, the first female member to be voted onto the Local 157 Trial Committee, was featured in a national advertising campaign for Levi's jeans. A video interviewing her about her upbringing and current career centered on her work as a carpenter in New York City. The video can be viewed at [https://www.levi.com/US/en\\_US/blog/article/the-longevity-of-levi-jeans/](https://www.levi.com/US/en_US/blog/article/the-longevity-of-levi-jeans/).

Tamara Rivera, an Area Standards agent, was highlighted in Construction Dive's "How These Women are Shaping the Construction Industry" feature through the month of March. The article centered on how she is "an advocate for construction and women in the field," and how she "exemplifies how hard work and commitment can enable women to lead in the industry." The article can be found here: <https://www.constructiondive.com/news/an-advocate-for-construction-and-women-in-the-field/517752/>.

The Sisters in the Brotherhood Annual BBQ took place July 14th at Orchard Beach Park in the Bronx.

The day was filled with good food, drinks, friends, and family, as Sisters were able to reunite with one another and bond in solidarity.



PHOTO CREDIT: THE LONGEVITY OF LEVI'S, SINADE WADSWORTH



Every day, the hardworking Brothers and Sisters of the NYCDCC are out in the field building this great city. Our Sisters in the field sent in great pictures to highlight their skills at work and at play!



Hudson Yards



30th Street Men's Shelter  
Photo credit: Robert Tramunti



Annual Picnic and BBQ

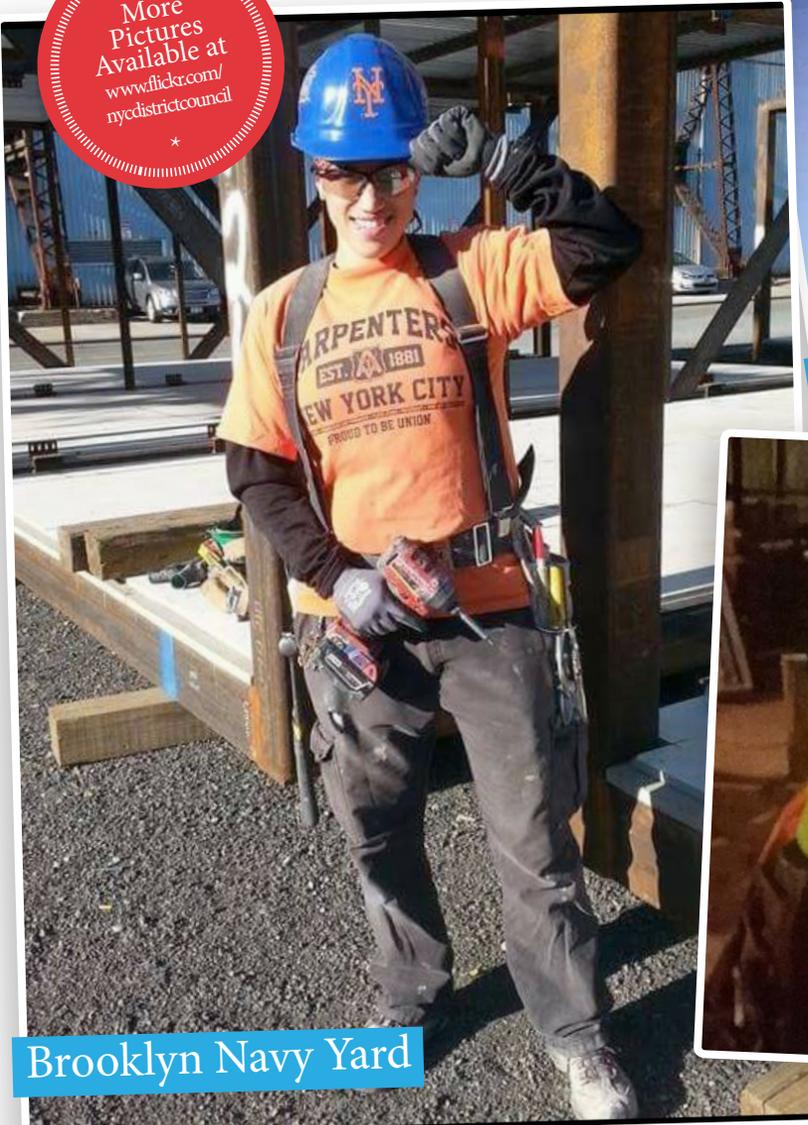


Northern Riverside Drive

More Pictures Available at [www.flickr.com/nycdistrictcouncil](http://www.flickr.com/nycdistrictcouncil)



Reagan Expressway



Brooklyn Navy Yard



Bx Mental Health Facility

## HEART 9/11 AND NYCDCC TEAM UP FOR VETS



In partnership with H.E.A.R.T. 9/11, our #UnionCarpenters built a stage at Serenity Stables From Combat To Calm in Atlantic Highlands, NJ for disabled veterans to make it easier to interact with the horses on the farm. Thank you to all the volunteers who donated their time and expertise for this worthy cause.

For more information about the stables, please visit their website: <https://www.serenitystablesfcc.org/>

ATTEND YOUR LOCAL UNION MEETINGS TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER



Email your photos to: [Communications@nycdistrictcouncil.org](mailto:Communications@nycdistrictcouncil.org), and be sure to include as much information about the photo as possible.

## NYCDCC SUPPORTING NYRIC



Check out the NYCDCC crew at this year's New York Roadway and Infrastructure Coalition (NYRIC) Reception honoring Dr. James Melius, hosted in the capitol building. New York has a lot of infrastructure projects that need urgent funding and union labor!

**Keep Your Certifications CURRENT!**  
It is your responsibility to monitor your certifications and keep them up to date.  
To find out when your certifications expire, visit the District Council website  
or call:  
CTC: 212-727-2224  
OWL: 212-366-3330



300 HITTERS, FEBRUARY 2018

## RECENT RETIREES AT THE DISTRICT COUNCIL



**Ramadan Ibric, Local 157**

Ramadan Ibric has been an investigator with the Council's Inspector General Department since 2010, after serving as both an organizer and business agent. He joined Local 135 in April of 1986 and retired with Local 157, but he says "it was my privilege to serve every single local in the District Council's jurisdiction." To upcoming members he says, "since they choose to be tradesmen, whatever they choose, Carpenter, Dockbuilder, Timbermen, I would say put their head and their minds in the trade...walk and talk like a tradesman."



**Paul Tyznar, Local 45**

"I got started in the union by being born into a union family; my father and grandfather were both members of the carpenters local in Queens, NY, now Local 45. I learned trade unionism at the dinner table. I'd like to tell current members to get involved; bring a positive attitude, as pointing fingers and assigning blame are easy, but helping to find a solution should be the goal. To future members, remember that you will only get out as much as you put in."



**Chris Wallace, Local 20**

"Our Union is not perfect, but it beats working non-union by leaps and bounds. Ask yourselves, what kind of life would I have lived if unions didn't exist? For myself, I would never have lived as well as I have if not for the United Brotherhood of Carpenters.

Right now, NYC unions are under attack by powerful developers who will use all means including paid-for politicians and media outlets to change laws and influence public opinion. The only way our union will cease to exist is when distance or divide between the leadership and the membership becomes so great that we all stop caring or communicating. Become an active member and strive to bring our union to the perfection it deserves."



**300 HITTERS, MAY 2018**

## MEND (MEMBER EDUCATION AND NETWORK FOR DEPENDENCY)



As a part of its focus on fostering a healthy work and life-balance for its members and their dependents, the New York City District Council of Carpenters Welfare Fund has launched the Members Education and Network for Dependency (“MEND”) Program, which gives participants and their dependents access to confidential treatment for substance abuse and other related problems. The program is located at 395 Hudson Street, New York, NY 10014, on the 5th floor.

**The goal of the MEND Program is to provide assistance to participants and dependents in addressing substance abuse issues through the following services:**

- Referrals to appropriate level of treatment including inpatient and outpatient treatment for all substances
- Case management and coordination of services with outside providers
- Supportive services
- Education

**More specifically, MEND is designed to:**

- Verify eligibility for coverage, and/or assist in locating and obtaining coverage

- Conduct thorough assessments for appropriate level of treatment and length of stay
- Provide treatment authorization in accordance with established guidelines
- Assist participants and/or dependents in identifying their treatment needs and goals
- Help participants and their dependents to secure services at treatment facilities
- Provide in-house support services including individual and family counseling, support groups, and educational groups
- Provide educational workshops

**If you or one of your dependents is struggling with substance abuse, please contact the MEND Program for assistance from our accredited staff. The MEND program can be reached by phone at (212) 366-7590 or by email at [MEND@nycbf.org](mailto:MEND@nycbf.org). Please remember that there is no shame in asking for help, that MEND operates under strict confidentiality restrictions, and that we are here to help you and your family.**

## NEW OWL CERTIFICATION: SILICA AWARENESS

The District Council recently added a new certification to the Out of Work List (OWL) called Silica Awareness. The four-hour course for Silica Awareness trains members on recognizing where silica exposure occurs, how it affects the body, how members can protect themselves, and what employers must do to protect their employees.

The Carpenters Training Center offers the required class, and it is available to all members. Class participants who successfully complete the training are awarded a Certificate of Completion.

Respirable Crystalline Silica (RCS) is a common hazardous material encountered on construction sites.

RCS is dangerous when fractured into small particles that can easily be inhaled and embedded in the lung tissue. Members of all crafts can be exposed on the job. The highest concentration of silica dust is typically produced by sweeping, concrete cutting, concrete and mortar mixing, surface grinding, sacking and patching concrete, tuck-point grinding, and concrete floor sanding. Even if members do not perform these tasks, they are likely to be in the vicinity of where they are being performed.

The Council encourages all members to add this certification to their profile with the OWL. Please contact the Carpenters Training Center at 212-727-2224 to sign up for the class or for more information.

## EST JOSEPH GEIGER HONORED AT BRONX DEMOCRATIC PARTY AWARD DINNER

On June 18, 2018, Executive Secretary-Treasurer Joseph Geiger was honored at the Bronx Democratic Party Annual Dinner for the Council’s commitment to working with the Bronx community. Part of the Council’s commitment to the Bronx is fostering relationships with local community groups, securing family-sustaining wages, employer-paid health insurance, and responsible development.



From left to right: EST Joseph Geiger, Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul, and Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz

## I.T. UPDATE

### Updating Communication Settings

To opt out of or opt into any mass communications provided by the District Council, click on “My Profile” in the top right corner of the page. The tab labeled “Communication Settings” contains the email, mailing address, or phone number (used for either voicemail or text message) at which the District Council will contact you.

You can update your information by entering the correct information and clicking “Save Settings” at the bottom.

Or you can opt out of all or some communications by selecting the box labeled “Don’t Send” next to the specific type of message you don’t want to receive, and then clicking “Save Settings” at the bottom.

### Seeing Hours On Union Fusion

To streamline the process, the Jobs grid is defaulted to show only open jobs. If you wish to change it, you can simply select “Open” under Status and click “Select All” or “Clear.”

Upon selecting the highlighted row, you will be brought to the job profile page. To see hours, select the sawhorse icon next to the Job number and select hours OR select View All under the Hours grid.

The hour period grid will show you all weeks for the job. Select the shop steward report you are interested in viewing, and select the row.

*Note: If you receive a permission denied message or you are unable to view, it is because you were not on the job during that time.*



### Benefits Website

The Benefits website is separate from the District Council website, and contains any information related to your work history (related to benefit hours filed by your employer) and things you would need for any medical or insurance related matters.

Their website is [www.nyccbf.org](http://www.nyccbf.org), and to reset your password or account you will need to call 212-366-7311.

## HEALTH BENEFITS REMINDER - WHEN YOU GET DIVORCED

Failing to report a divorce while you have a spouse listed as a dependent under the NYCDCC Welfare Fund (the “Fund”) may result in grave financial repercussions and the loss of your health coverage. This is especially true if your former spouse receives costly medical treatments after he/she is no longer eligible for coverage.

For more information, please visit the following link or contact 1-800-529-FUND (3863): <https://nyccbf.com/reminder-a-failure-to-timely-report-a-divorce-to-the-nycdcc-welfare-fund-may-have-a-severe-impact-on-your-finances-health-coverage-and-familys-health-coverage/> Please read

### this explanation of the Fund’s rules:

- Once legally divorced, your former spouse will remain covered under the Fund until the last day of the month in which the judge signed your divorce judgement. After that month, your former spouse is considered ineligible to receive benefits from the Fund.
- You must provide a copy of the signed divorce judgement to the Fund as soon as possible so your spouse’s coverage can be terminated at the end of that month.
- Failure to report the divorce is considered fraud and means you and your spouse will be liable for any benefits paid by the Fund after your spouse’s coverage ended. You and your spouse will need to reimburse the Fund for those expenses and you and other dependents will immediately lose Welfare coverage unless and until the full amount due is paid to the Fund. Legal action may be taken to recover the claims paid in error.
- In order for your former spouse to be eligible for COBRA coverage, you or your former spouse must provide notice of your divorce within 60 days of the date of divorce. If the Fund receives no notice, your former spouse will lose his/her COBRA rights.





# Experience Modification Rate: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

**TARGET:**  
**ZERO**   
**ACCIDENTS**

Experience Modification Rate (EMR) has a strong impact on our ability to drive work to union contractors. EMR is the number used by insurers to gauge past cost of injuries and the chance of future risk. **That means: LESS ACCIDENTS FOR UNION CONTRACTORS = MORE UNION JOBS**

## INDUSTRY AVERAGE EMR: 1.0

### What does it mean if your business EMR is greater than 1.0?

There has been a worker compensation claim that your insurer has paid. The bad news...Insurers pass this cost along to you by raising worker compensation premiums AND an increased EMR sticks with you for 3 years.

### How are EMRs calculated?

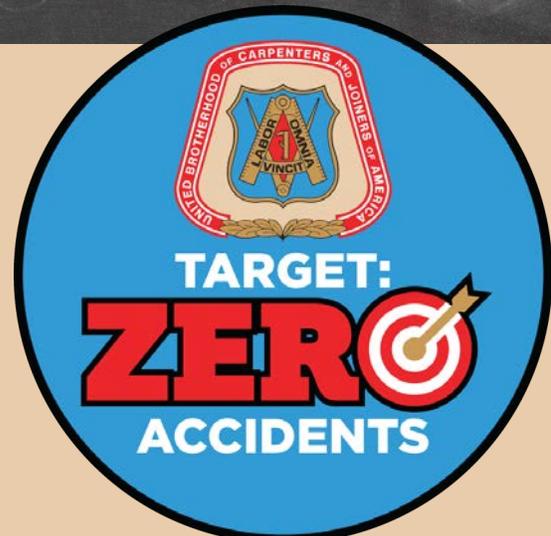
$$\text{Base Premium} = \frac{\left( \frac{\text{Company Payroll on a Job}}{100} \right)}{\text{Class Rate}^*}$$

...But, you're not a mathematician, so who cares? You only have to worry about one equation:

**LESS ACCIDENTS FOR UNION CONTRACTORS = MORE UNION JOBS**

### How does high EMR affect cost?

Simple: The higher your EMR is, the higher insurance premiums will be. The lower your EMR is, the lower your insurance premiums will be. That is why we need our union contractors to have low EMRs.



## NEW YORK CITY & STATE PROSECUTORS, PARTNERS ANNOUNCE JOINT EFFORT TO COMBAT WAGE THEFT IN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

New York City and State prosecutors announced criminal charges in multiple cases involving stolen wages, while providing tips on how to spot wage theft and report it to the proper authorities. Enforcement of wage laws will have a great stabilizing effect on the construction industry. Unscrupulous non-union employers evade workers compensation, unemployment insurance, and basic payroll taxes by knowingly misclassifying workers as “independent contractors,” paying in cash off the books, and running other scams. They cost taxpayers billions, hurt honest businesses, and exploit workers.

Wage theft in the construction industry is rampant. This multi-pronged effort will be a turning point for an industry that is plagued by unscrupulous contractors willing to profit off the backs of New York families. It is no surprise that the vast majority of wage theft cases involve non-union contractors that prey on a work force that does not have a voice. We will be their voice. We will continue to advocate for a level playing field in New York’s robust construction industry where workers are paid a middle class wage, are properly trained and work on safe job sites,” said Joseph Geiger, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the New York City District Council of Carpenters.

### VISIT THE PAYROLLFRAUD.NET RESOURCE PAGES TO:

- Watch a video overview and download the concise print summary.
- Read the latest news on legislation, prosecutions, etc.
- Examine the growing body of research and data on the enormous costs of payroll fraud.
- Find enforcement resources, such as state websites and IRS and USDOL forms.

With support from the UBC and its members, public officials can end this ill-gotten advantage and open up more opportunities for honest employers and honest workers.

**#ENDWAGETHEFT**

HOW EMPLOYERS STEAL WAGES

- Withholding paychecks
- Not paying overtime
- Not paying for training or travel time
- Misclassifying workers as lesser-skilled

REPORT WAGE THEFT

WhatsApp Manhattan DA  
(646) 712-0298

NYS Department of Labor  
1 (888) 4-NYSOL

**#ENDWAGETHEFT**

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- No pagan overtime (Tiempo extra)
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REPORTE EL ROBO DE SALARIOS:

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NYS Department of Labor  
1 (888) 4-NYSOL

## DRYWALL AND RESILIENT FLOORCOVERING OLYMPICS

It’s not very often that carpenters get a chance to show off their skills outside the job, but for some members who hang drywall for a living, the Drywall and Resilient Floorcovering Olympics is a very special event. For the past few months, our members’ drywall skills were on display at different competitions held around the country, and some of the best drywallers in North America got a chance to compete against each other in a race to see who could finish first hanging drywall on a pre-set section of framed wall.

Drywalling means a lot to these carpenters, as carpenters have always taken great pride in their work, and it can be seen every day on the jobsite. Drywall is a very popular surface for interiors today, but plaster is another material that even carpenters themselves think of as an art form.

This year at the Drywall Olympics in Las Vegas, there was both a Drywall Competition and a Floor Covering Competition. Local and district competitions saw as many as 40 members compete for a single spot in the regional competition.

We are so proud of our members Thomas Werminski (Local 157, Jacobson) and John Drago (Local 2287, Consolidated Carpet) who went on to the regional competition in New Jersey on May 19th. While they didn’t make it to the final round in Las Vegas, our members still had the experience of a lifetime bonding with each other, learning, and showcasing their skills.





MEMBER

ERICH "POKE" PORSCH | LOCAL 1556

A year later. For most, it went by fast, but for me the time passed slowly and painfully.

I think of April 5, 2017 every day. I cry at times when 4:30 in the morning comes—when I used to get ready for work, heat up the coffee, heat up the car on those cold days. I'd grab my lunch, get my change of clothes, hook up the EZ pass, and kiss my girl goodbye, who wasn't up that early. Sometimes the rides were long, very long, especially when I had a Long Island job.

Hey, I can't complain, I'm a dockbuilder who's got a job and loves his work. I'd think, as I drove home, about the job and what tomorrow would bring. The guys I work with, well, I can't say enough about them. We always stuck together. Always thinking who needs help? Who is not sure of what to do next? This guy needs help carrying something. We helped each other. Yes, we are a brotherhood.

I will never be in the business again, and I tear up over that. But, then again, I am alive.

I came close that day in Queens. I thought to myself, "Wait! I'm too young to die at 41. My birthday is in 6 days. Will I be alive to see it?" In and out of consciousness, your mind wanders with thoughts you've never thought or felt before. Days and weeks pass. The nightmares are still so real. Waking up, thinking about the hammer coming down on me. Cold sweats, crying, and nightmares. Thank God that my partners didn't get hurt. If it had to be only one person and not two or three more—okay, then that's life.

I got cards and phone calls from different dockbuilders and union reps. My "brothers" also asked my family—all dockbuilders too—about me. A collection was taken up. Thanks so much guys! My mom would get calls, she said, but could not talk at times, not knowing what the next hour would bring for her son.

I come from a family of dockbuilders, 17 of us in all. There's my grandfather, Jack Kozak, who started us all in the business, and 16 others, including my brother, Dan, my father, uncles, cousins, brother-in-law, and even my two nephews, Jon and Bryan. Some are gone now, some retired, and some are not able to work anymore.

The last year hasn't been that good, between wheelchairs, physical therapy, crutches, walkers, and canes. It's been a rough road. So far, I've been in the operating room six times. The doctors did their job.

Left ankle broke in eight places, lost 12 pints of my blood, right hip fractured in four places, four ribs fractured, lumbar damages, vertebrae number three and four damaged, multiple nerves damaged, both legs damaged. You know what, let's stop right there. I have to think of the better days that I can remember.

Thank you for your words of encouragement, the prayers, and the calls from the brotherhood, and, of course, the firemen who did a job that was unbelievable! They rescued me. No, they saved my life, which could have been over within minutes!

Thank you is not good enough. There has to be better words to use, but I don't know what they are. And to my "brothers," reps, the District Council, BAs, and everyone who thought of me at that time—again, what do I say? Thank you? Not enough.

I'll always be a brother to (L.U. 1456) 1556. For the support they gave me and the tremendous job done by the firemen that were there and for the life that they gave me, I LOVE YOU ALL.

Fraternally,  
Erich "Poke" Porsch



VICTOR VALLE  
Local 157



## MEMBER

## JIM FOSTER | LOCAL 926

Jim Foster, a proud member of the New York City District Council of Carpenters since May 2000, has achieved success not just within the union, but outside it as well. Foster began his career working for a concrete company that sponsored his union membership, ultimately leading him to join Local 926. In 2015, he was hired as a carpentry instructor for Riker's Career Technical Education (CTE) program and is currently employed by the City of New York. During his three years at Riker's, he has become a United Federation of Teachers representative and delegate and has received awards of excellence and commendation from the Department of Correction.

Foster is a fierce advocate for union values and makes sure to educate his colleagues and students about the prevalence of wage theft and how to report it. He said it's important to back not just your fellow workers, but all workers. That's why when he heard his uncle-in-law's health aide worker was not receiving the wages she earned, he jumped into action. Foster immediately called the U.S. District Attorney's Office and filed a complaint on behalf of the health aide workers. When the DA's office asked him why he got involved, he simply said, "That's part of our organizing—we get involved in all who don't get paid."

The DA's office, in turn, called the Department of Labor who sent investigators. In two weeks, all 50 health care workers got their wages. Foster had personally recovered the names of 14 health care workers, and 11 of them called to thank him for his service. Foster said the reason many of these workers don't speak up is because they are "too scared to say anything."

"I was doing it basically on the local level to let our carpenters know that our organizing gets more involved in other things than just carpenter-carpenter problems over the jobsites," he said. Foster also commented that it was very easy to call the DA's office to alert them of a potential problem, and that they conducted their investigation independently and took care of the problem right away.

As far as advice to new members in the union, Foster said, "The strongest advice I can give is to back your union Brother or Sister to make the union as strong as it can possibly be, and never let your guard down. Stand up for what you believe in."

From his exceptional career since early 2000 to always standing up for what he believes in, we see that he not only talks the talk, but also walks the walk.

#### Q: How did you find out about/get involved with the union?

A: I was accepted into a woodworking program called Brooklyn Woods back in early 2014. On my first day the instructor asked if any of us wanted to be in the Carpenter's union, and I raised my hand. He gave me a handout with information for Building Works on it and told me to hit the road. After that I applied for, entered into, and graduated from the Building Works Program, which led to instant acceptance into the United Brotherhood of Carpenters.

#### Q: How has the union changed your life?

A: First and foremost, I'm able to provide for my family. Also, my skills as a carpenter, follower, leader and problem-solver have been strengthened. Overall, my life has been given more direction, and my eyes are open to more opportunities.

#### Q: What would you like to tell prospective union members?

A: The UBC can give you the skill-set needed for a career in

the construction trades. Matters of race, creed, gender and sexual orientation don't matter in the Brotherhood. All that matters is that you, the individual, have the desire to create an outstanding future for yourself. It'll be tough, but in the future, when you're wiser and older, you'll look back and appreciate what the union has done for you.

#### Q: What's been a favorite jobsite or experience for you with the union?

A: My favorite experience to date has been meeting and knowing Shop Stewards, by far some of the kindest, stand-up fellas you'd ever want to meet. However, I do have to single out one in particular, my friend and mentor John Dunscomb. He was a delegate for Local 157 and a drummer in the Pipes and Drums. John took an interest in me and taught me ceilings before my first ceiling class even started, and for that (and more) it was an absolute blessing to meet him.

# GRASSROOTS SHAREHOLDER ACTIVISM PROGRAM

## I. Activism Overview and Goals

The retirement funds of United Brotherhood of Carpenters (UBC) members are significant corporate shareowners, with fund assets of over \$45 billion. For decades, UBC Funds have accepted the responsibilities of and exercised their rights as corporate owners. The UBC grassroots activism program complements this national ownership activism, infusing the activism with energy and a sharp focus on the interests of the full range of constituents, including employees, communities, and owners. UBC Council grassroots activism puts a local “face” on our national corporate ownership. UBC Council representatives in their roles as corporate owners, workers, community members, and corporate customers, are uniquely positioned to monitor corporate actions and advocate for necessary reforms.

## II. Grassroots Activism Program Components:

### 1. Staff Education

Several half-day educational seminars on key corporate governance and executive compensation topics are conducted to build Council staff capabilities to be effective public advocates for responsible corporate governance and ethical corporate behavior. Seminar topics include a background review of the topic of corporate governance and the key issues of director elections, auditor independence, and executive compensation.

### 2. Corporate Annual Meeting Attendance

Publicly traded corporations are required by state corporate law to conduct annual shareholder meetings. These meetings generally are held in the city where the corporation is headquartered and address various items of business necessary to the operation of the corporation. Council staff attend the annual meetings and engage corporate management on key aspects of company operations.

### 3. Corporate Governance & Activities Reports

Reports on important aspects of the corporate governance processes are prepared and serve as a basis for engagement with the corporations. Program reports include topics such as audit firm independence, executive compensation, and corporate board composition.

### 4. Corporate Director & Executive Database

A key activism project entails preparing a corporate director tracking database that identifies each of the directors that sit on the boards of area corporations. The vast majority of the directors are active participants in local business communities, leading hundreds of companies, non-profits, and educational institutions.



## UPCOMING TRAINING PROGRAMS AT THE INTERNATIONAL TRAINING CENTER IN LAS VEGAS, NV

The Carpenters International Training Center (ITC) is a thriving monument to the Brotherhood's commitment to skills and productivity, and to building strength as a union and an industry partner.

Above all, the ITC is where we develop and train local trainers who deliver the most current craft-skills instruction to members at more than 200 centers around North America. The ITC supports the creation of new courses that meet contractors' evolving needs, and it is home to ongoing refinements in core courses such as interior systems; scaffolding; concrete formwork; commercial doors and hardware; gas and steam turbine installation and maintenance; and many others.



### 300 Hitters Program: Building Leadership for a Strong Future

Our 300 Hitters program was developed by the UBC to give our Journeymen a broader understanding of our union, the construction industry and our membership's role in shaping the future in the years ahead. This program is a once in a lifetime opportunity for members to tour our state-of-the-art International Training Center (ITC), meet other carpenters from all over the country, and most importantly, learn valuable skills they need to help build a stronger union.

### Collaborative Leadership: Building Jobsite Leaders

This three-day program is designed to give jobsite supervisors the tools necessary to improve the overall jobsite, taking it from good to great. Today's leaders need an expanded repertoire of skills and a new mindset to succeed in the increasingly fast-paced, chaotic, and highly competitive industry. This calls for more collaborative-based leadership, and the creation of a partnership culture—one that can harness the knowledge and expertise of all stakeholders. This allows leaders to leverage everyone's best and better compete.

### Superintendent Career Training: Plan for the Future

The concept of the Superintendent Career Training (SCT) program is to closely integrate both the technical aspects of construction job site management and the personal/career development needs of the individual trainee. The Carpenters International Training Fund program utilizes a unique combination of classroom instruction, company-sponsored mentoring and on-the-job training to deliver skill training customized to the individual needs of the sponsoring contractor and the Superintendent/General Foreman trainee.



Photo Credit: UBC Website, carpenters.org

### NextLevel Journeymen Program:

The Next Level Journeymen program is specifically for returning Journeymen who have exemplified the principles of the UBC Journeymen program. Participants should be members who have successfully completed the UBC Journeymen program and returned back to their job sites to make a measurable impact or stepped up in a leadership role at the Council level. This program is only open to returning Journeymen who have completed the UBC Journeymen program. (Must have completed 300 Hitters Program to be eligible).

### 3rd Year Apprentices Program: Helping Build Our Industries

The Carpenters Training Center is partnering with the UBC to bring an Apprenticeship Training Program to our eligible apprentices. As the program is run entirely through the training center, you can get more information by contacting their front desk at 212-727-2224.

Apply Online at

[www.nycdistrictcouncil.com/UBC-Training-Programs](http://www.nycdistrictcouncil.com/UBC-Training-Programs)

## DEFINITION OF PUBLIC WORKS

The Political Action Department continues to work on getting the Definition of Public Works bill passed through the state senate. This bill creates clearly defined criteria of what is classified as a public work. Any project that receives public subsidies or incentive will be considered a public work and therefore subject to prevailing wage. This legislation uses public dollars to create quality, local jobs for the residents of New York. New York is currently one of the last states to adopt this kind of legislation, so it is imperative that this bill is passed. We hosted our annual lobby day on June 5th where we spoke to various elected officials about the significance of the Definition of Public Works. We look forward to continuing to push this bill forward at the start of the new session in January.

## SUPREME COURT DECISIONS

In a case in May, the Supreme Court ruled that workers cannot band together to challenge violations of Federal Labor Laws. Employees who sign employment agreements can only do so on an individual basis. On June 27th, the Supreme Court issued a decision on the Janus v. AFCME case. It was ruled that payments to the union may not be deducted from a non-member's wages, unless the employee agrees to pay, even though they are a part of collective bargaining. Governor Cuomo signed an executive order to keep member information safe from anti-union organizations to protect against harassment. He also signed a law that makes it more difficult for people to opt out of paying union dues by letting unions set the terms for refusals, and allowing union representatives to meet with new employees during work hours to talk about the benefits of enrolling.

## 2018 ELECTION CYCLE

The 2018 election cycle is underway and the District Council has been active on the local, state, and federal levels. The general election takes place on November 6th. The Council has met with candidates and communicated our priorities. Members have volunteered knocking on doors for several candidates and continue to champion union values and act as a strong presence in their communities by attending Community Board meetings. The Council endorses candidates that have been and will continue to be strong and active advocates for the issues affecting our membership. It is important that we all participate in government. Sharing our voice ensures that we advance our interests.

## Cast Your Vote!

To advance our interests as a union and advocate for all workers, it is pivotal that all members exercise their right to vote. Voting is your right as a citizen and your chance to choose and hold your elected officials accountable. Never underestimate the power of your vote.

To all New York State residents, in order to vote you must first be registered. Please visit <https://voterreg.dmv.ny.gov/motorvoter> to register to vote.

To vote in the General Election, you must be registered to vote by October 12, 2018. The General Election will take place on November 6, 2018. To look up your polling location, please visit, <https://voterlookup.elections.ny.gov/>.

To download an application for an absentee ballot, visit [elections.ny.gov/votingabsentee.html](https://elections.ny.gov/votingabsentee.html)

## VAN AND ULURP TRAINING

In March, the Political Action Department hosted a training for business representatives and organizers around Voter Activation Network (VAN) and the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP). VAN is a program that allows access to data when speaking to elected officials and candidates about our membership's issues. It also allows better methodology to communicate political events and actions to members. The ULURP training explained how the ULURP process worked and how it could be intervened. Both trainings better equipped our business representatives and organizers to advocate for the interests of the Council.

**YOUR VOTE IS *OUR VOICE***

<p>To vote in the general election, you must be registered to vote by: <b>October 12th</b></p>	<p>The general election will take place: <b>November 6th</b></p>
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To all New York State residents, in order to vote you must first be registered. Please visit <https://voterreg.dmv.ny.gov/motorvoter> to register to vote.

## COMMUNITY BOARD

In February and May, members attended meetings to strengthen the Council's presence in the community and advocate for projects to be built union.

At a Community Board 3 meeting, members supported Robert Levine's RAL Development Services to build a 258,000-square-foot collaborative work and event space in Union Square.

At a Community Board 2 meeting, members, including Executive Secretary-Treasurer Joseph Geiger, petitioned developer Madison Realty Capital to use union labor in the construction of a proposed two-tower development in Woodside.

It is imperative that the Council bolsters its influence in the community to help impact the future of building and development in all five boroughs and take back market share.

The Council encourages all members to get involved in their communities by sharing what is important to them and making their voices heard. We must prove that to build a strong middle class and better New York, it must be built union.



MEMBERS AT COMMUNITY BOARD 2 MEETING

## ULURP TRAINING AT NYCDCC



Great training was held by The Center for Urban Pedagogy where our Business Representatives and Organizers learned how the Uniform Land Usage Review Procedure (ULURP) operates and how to intervene.

ULURP is the process by which major land use changes get reviewed and approved in New York City. It's a complicated review procedure that involves many different decision makers, making it difficult for individuals to have a voice in land use decisions that impact their community. For more information about ULURP, please visit <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/planning/applicants/applicant-portal/step5-ulurp-process.page>

## INDEPENDENT MONITOR'S FIFTH INTERIM REPORT Now Available on DC Website

Independent Monitor Glen McGorty has submitted his fifth annual Interim Report, which is available to view on the District Council website after logging in as a Member. This is along with all compliance and IG materials on the website, under the Compliance section from the front page of the website.

## INSPECTOR GENERAL DAVID PIÉ

(212) 366 - 3361 | [dpie@nycdcigoffice.org](mailto:dpie@nycdcigoffice.org)

The role of the Office of the Inspector General is to combat union corruption and serve the membership by acting as an independent and nonpartisan watchdog. We have and will continue to hold our members, employees, and signatory contractors accountable if they violate any of our rules and regulations, or engage in misconduct.

The grievance system is one way that issues have been addressed. My belief is that an over reliance on grievances can become counterproductive and may even encourage complacency while also negatively impacting market share. We continue to rely on a partnership between our job site integrity inspectors, IG Investigators and Business Agents to address issues which are identified in the field. I encourage members to continue to bring issues to the attention of the IG's Office as well as the appropriate Business Agents. Grievances will be filed and adjudicated when other means of addressing the issue have been exhausted.

The Consent Decree mandates that members refrain from associating with barred persons. I was encouraged recently when several members contacted our office to report having been in contact, no matter how insignificantly, with a known barred person while at an outside event. This willingness to self-report and display an adherence to the terms of the Consent Decree is an example of the behaviors that will ultimately lead to self-governance.

My vision for the IG's Office is one of transparency and communication with the members and Council. To that end I will occasionally provide information on cases and outcomes that the

IG's Office has been investigating. Some recent cases/outcomes:

- Persons charged with providing false work letters to gain union membership. They were found guilty and were barred from future union membership.
- A member was charged with defrauding the local sick donation fund. The member was found guilty and was expelled and barred from future union membership.
- A member was charged with having Organized Crime associations. He was tried and found guilty and was expelled from the union and barred from future membership.

We are open to hear from members who would like to share their thoughts and ideas for combating fraud in our trade. Please feel free to contact our Office at 212-366-3354 to set up an appointment. We continue to ask that all members act in good faith and help the District Council in its efforts in policing fraud and corruption and would like to thank all members that have been utilizing the I.G. Hotline. If any member would like to report any wrongdoing, please do not hesitate to call 1-855-UBC-TIPS. You may remain anonymous if you wish to do so.

We cannot succeed without the support and assistance of all of you who know the industry well and can provide the type of information and insight which is required to identify, investigate and eliminate corruption, waste, fraud and abuse as we move towards a future which will include self-governance.

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## CHIEF COMPLIANCE OFFICER JOSH LEICHT

(212) 366 - 7362 | [JLeicht@nycdistrictcouncil.org](mailto:JLeicht@nycdistrictcouncil.org)

In this edition of the "Carpenter" magazine, the Inspector General noted that we have been receiving good signals from District Council employees and members that they take seriously their obligation to keep the union corruption free. One of these good signals is that people are reporting their contact with "barred persons." So, who are "barred persons," and what should be done if you have contact with one?

The Consent Decree between the District Council and the Department of Justice prohibits all "current and future officers, employees and members of the District Council and its constituent locals... from knowingly associating with any member or associate of any La Cosa Nostra crime family or any other criminal group, or with any person prohibited from participating in union affairs (hereinafter collectively referred to as 'barred persons') ...." (emphasis added).

Section 504 of the Labor Management Reporting and Disclosure Act defines a person who is prohibited from participating in union affairs as anyone who has been convicted of a serious crime, including but not limited to, murder, assault, rape, arson, extortion, burglary, grand larceny, robbery, bribery, embezzlement, violation of narcotics laws, and any felony involving abuse or misuse of an individual's position or employment in a labor organization or employee benefit plan.

A "barred person" is, therefore, any individual that has been convicted of a crime listed in Section 504. Also, any person who is a member or associate of an organized crime family or a criminal group is also a "barred person," regardless of whether the individual has been convicted of a crime listed in Section 504.

Contact with a barred person that is merely "fleeting or casual" does not violate the Consent Decree. Moreover, only those who "knowingly associate" with a barred person will be found to have violated the Consent Decree prohibition. In this regard, "knowingly associating" means actual knowledge, or that the individual should have known that he was associating with a barred person. That means we cannot bury our heads in the sand and pretend not to know what every average and ordinary person would be expected to know.

The purpose of the Consent Decree prohibition on associating with barred persons is to achieve what every honorable member wants—an independent and corruption free union that acts only in the interests of the membership. If you have contact with a barred person, or someone you think may be a barred person, contact the Inspector General's Office and let them know—especially if you feel they are trying to influence your actions or activities as a union member. Letting someone know is the best way to protect yourself and the union from corrupt influences.



# OPERATION WATCH DOG

*Members protecting their hours DAILY*



## MEMBERS PROTECTING BENEFITS WITH TECHNOLOGY

Each member has the ability to act like a watchdog. You can check the hours and total number of carpenters posted daily by the shop steward on the jobsite.

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR VIEWING YOUR WORK HOURS:

- ★ Visit <https://nycdcc.unionfusion.net/> and log into Union Fusion.
- ★ Once you are logged in, click on the “Operation Watchdog” link located in the column on the right side of your screen, under the “Quick Links” section. Now you will be able to view the hours submitted by the shop steward/timekeeper on the jobsites you have worked at.

## PLEASE DO YOUR PART TO HELP ERADICATE CORRUPTION

To confidentially report any violation, please call...

**(855)-UBC-TIPS**

NEW YORK CITY DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS  
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL  
PHONE: 212-366-3354  
FAX: 212-366-7363  
EMAIL: [ig@nycdcigoffice.org](mailto:ig@nycdcigoffice.org)



# PROTON THERAPY CENTER

## Local 740 Millwrights Varian Medical Systems

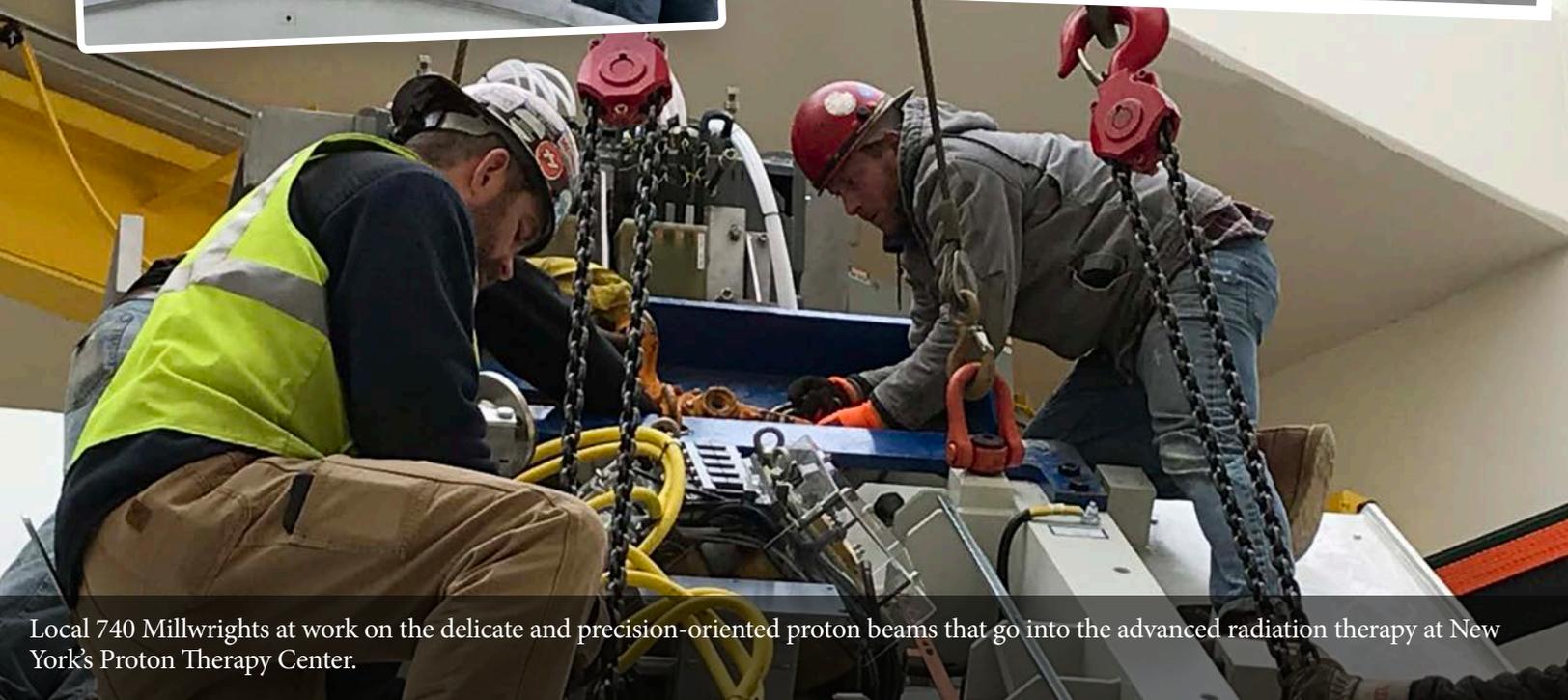


The New York City Proton Therapy Center will be the first and only specialized treatment facility in the state of New York, and members of Millwrights Local Union 740 are working together with Varian Medical Systems to go above and beyond.

Proton therapy is an advanced, powerful alternative to standard radiation treatment for cancer that targets tumors directly while minimizing radiation exposure to healthy tissue. Both proton therapy and standard radiation work by changing the molecular structure of cancer cells to prevent them from growing and reproducing. Both treatments work to eradicate tumors and cancer cells—the difference is in the type of radiation and the way it is delivered.

From a New York Times article on the center’s construction: “At a construction site on 126th Street in East Harlem, what is being built could be a matter of life and death to those who visit. It is the New York Proton Center, and when it starts taking patients in February 2019, it will be the first of its kind in the state, providing specialized radiation treatment for children with cancer, those suffering from head and neck cancers and other tumors that require pinpoint treatment to avoid damage to surrounding tissues and organs.

The \$300-million, three-story center has been in development for eight years, though construction didn’t start until July 2015. The Proton Center is made up of a consortium of three of New York’s leading cancer treatment providers — Sloan Kettering, Mt. Sinai, and Montefiore Health System. Coming together to purchase and share the expensive equipment made the project financially viable.” (New York Times, The High-Tech, Big-Footprint Cancer Center, <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/26/nyregion/the-high-tech-big-footprint-cancer-center.html>)



Local 740 Millwrights at work on the delicate and precision-oriented proton beams that go into the advanced radiation therapy at New York’s Proton Therapy Center.

## CPV POWER PLANT

**Local 740 Millwrights**

**Contractor: Skanska**

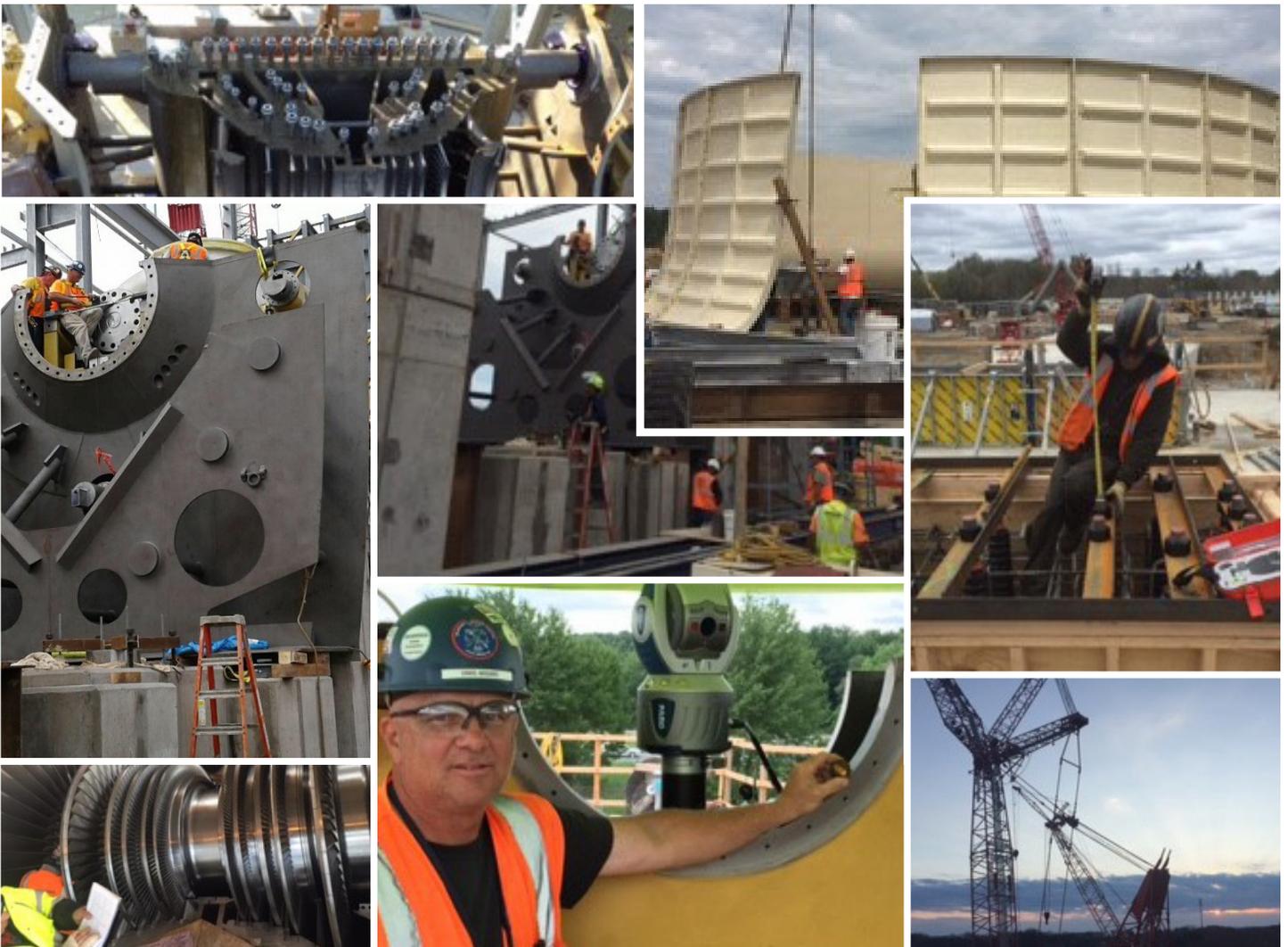
**Written by Daniel Mazzaro**

One hundred thousand! That is the amount of union millwright hours that were worked to construct the CPV power plant in Middletown, New York. In April 2016, the first few millwrights arrived on the jobsite that consisted of just a few concrete slabs. The millwrights began setting anchor bolts for the gas turbines, steam turbine, and the three generators that supply 700 MW of electrical power to the grid.

The crew quickly built up to almost 40 men over the next few months as concrete was poured and machinery was assembled and installed. The crew size stayed consistent for close to a year as projects were completed. Soon after, the crew tapered down but still maintained a size of 20 men 18 months after the job started. In the first year, those 40 men assembled and installed two gas turbines, one steam turbine, three generators, 36 ACC fans spanning 30 feet in diameter each, and numerous other auxiliary fans, motors, and pumps for the balance of the plant.

In accomplishing these tasks, the millwrights set, leveled, and aligned over 100 motors and fans and safely rigged over 2,500 tons of machinery and materials - that's over 5 million pounds! The largest piece weighed in at over 600,000 lbs. Our welders laid down over 2.5 miles of weld in the process of building the steam turbine LP outer cover and the connecting hot box. Twenty months after the job began, the last few men still remain to prepare and maintain the machinery as systems are being commissioned and started and the power plant comes to life.

As millwrights, we are proud to say that we all worked hard every day and accomplished all our tasks in a timely fashion with only one unfortunate no-time-lost recordable accident. Working safe and working hard to try to bring the job in under budget—that's what the 740 millwrights do.



## APPRENTICESHIP OPEN HOUSE & EXHIBIT

The 49th Annual Apprenticeship Open House & Exhibit was once again a great exhibition of knowledge, skill, and precision for the graduating class of apprentices, a great venue for vendors and contractors to display facets of the industry, and an opportunity for the public to see the hard work that goes into training union tradespeople in NYC.



Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul visits the Apprenticeship Open House & Exhibit





## This Year's Golden Hammer Winners:

### General Carpentry

Matthew Ekelund, Local 20

### Interior Systems

Eric Soobrian, Local 45

### Floor Covering

Justin Laguna, Local 2287

### Millwrights

Joseph Daly, Local 740

### Dockbuilders/Timbermen

Thomas Galgano, Local 1556

### Cabinetmaking Exhibitions

Shirley Rendon Rivera

Joseph Kane

Local 2790

**MORE PICTURES  
AVAILABLE AT**

[www.flickr.com/nycdistrictcouncil](http://www.flickr.com/nycdistrictcouncil)





# Local 2790 and Tatco Start Finishing Revolution

Carpentry and an automated assembly line seem to be polar opposites: while one inspires the idea of woodworking as an artistry, the other conjures images of a cookie cutter finished product. But a company in Maspeth, Queens is banking on the idea that they can find a connection between the two and hopefully gain some new business in the process.

Tatco Installation is an architectural woodworking shop that has been employing NYCDCC shop members for many years and currently employs Local 2790 members. They're setup as a one-stop shop for furniture construction, sanding, finishing, and anything in between. This is the model that a lot of local shops around the city have followed for a long time, either working on all phases of a woodworking job or specializing in an individual phase. But the Prima machine by Cefla Finishing and Robatech sanding machine by MB are aimed at making a one-stop shop even more productive, and therefore able to handle much more product going in and out every day.

The Prima finishing machine is essentially four spray guns over a conveyor belt, designed to handle a single piece of wood or a continuous palette filled to the brim. It's set up to get an even finish on every piece of wood that goes through, cutting down on material waste, and incorporates a high-efficiency fan that helps keep accumulation from forming in the spray area, providing a more even finished product. Right now, Tatco is using the finishing and sanding machines in conjunction, though they're a room apart from each other. We saw sideboards go through the sanding machine, onto the finishing machine, and then get ready to go back through the Robatech machine. The Local 2790 members on site simply set the machine's specifications, made sure the finishing product was properly mixed, and set the panels and planks on the conveyor belt, often between five and 10 pieces at a time. During the finishing of one set, someone from outside the company brought in what looked like a cabinet door to see if they could do their finishing work with Tatco. The spray guns save a ton of material with their dedicated spray zones, yet produce a finished product without a drop off in quality from the Local 2790 finishers. And the two machines together provide Tatco with a serious boon in efficiency: a job that may have taken an hour can now take 10 seconds.

That is the type of statistic that usually terrifies a union, but not in this case. "We may be hiring more people," says Pete Arena, Chief Financial Officer of Tatco. It's only worrying to the union that things get done 10 times faster if there's not 10 times the work; fortunately, in this case, that extra work seems to be lining up. If Tatco becomes the quickest shop to get through finishing in the five boroughs, then they could end up doing a lot more finishing work from all different corners of the city. "I didn't realize how big of a market this was, and how many people needed a service like this, because we can finish furniture at a quarter of the price, and once we're able to do that we're able to win more jobs," says Arena. There was mention of a Chinese company that could be sending doors to Tatco because it's cheaper than their own production process. Pumping all kinds of product through the two machines takes no time at all, but it still takes workers. "The skillset of a woodworker is changing because of technology," Arena points out. "In my opinion, if you go to 90 percent of the shops, we're still running a shop like it's 1980, but our competitors are not. So we're trying to compete with a screw driver when these guys have power tools."



Photo Credit: www.exapro.com



The driving factor for Tatco was others who had already purchased the machines, or ones similar to them. There are a couple shops in New Jersey and Pennsylvania that have upped production, but no one in the Metropolitan area.

“Everything’s changing thanks to technology, so unless you change with it, you’re going to be left by the wayside,” Arena says. “If you go outside of New York we’re about 10 years too late; the machine I bought has been out for eight years, so you would think I’d be too far behind the curve, but the fact of the matter is I’m the first person to get this in the five boroughs which is ridiculous.” Tatco was sick of losing the same jobs for the same reasons, or even worse, having to bend over backwards to be a part of the bidding process.

**“If you talked to the union 20 years ago about this machine, they would have looked at it as a negative, but now you have a new breed and they look at it as a positive because they realize this is what’s going to save the industry in New York.”**

- Pete Arena, Tatco

“These people from out of town were putting a hurting to us,” Arena says. “Why? They were able to invest in their machine, and then we had to drop our prices without being efficient. We had to otherwise we wouldn’t win a job. So that puts us more under pressure, we don’t have the cash flow to invest, and it’s a slow death.”

But now that Tatco has the machines installed and running, the requests are coming in. They’re still running like a woodworking shop, their basement pumping out furniture and paneling that gets sent upstairs to be sanded and finished. But the investment is already paying off with everyone in the area taking note of how fast they can pump out product. “Without the investment, quite honestly, it’s very hard to compete in this market. So at the end of the day, everything is becoming autonomous, and if you don’t embrace technology, you’re going to have a hard time. If you talked to the union 20 years ago about this machine, they would have looked at it as a negative, but now you have a new breed and they look at it as a positive because they realize this is what’s going to save the industry in New York.”



Photo Credit: Governor Cuomo's Office, LaGuardia Airport Rendering

# LaGuardia and JFK Airports Getting Overhauled

AND THE WORK IT WILL PROVIDE FOR THE NEXT DECADE

The airports in New York City are some of the busiest in the world, but much like the subway system, find themselves under-maintained when faced with the staggering amount of foot traffic they see on a daily basis. Recently announced massive investment from both public and private sources is gearing up to be a mammoth source of work hours for our members for years to come.

Perhaps the airport that needs the most work in America is LaGuardia Airport in Queens. Long thought of as difficult to reach, neglected, and in need of a renovation project, LaGuardia has seen plans, blueprints, and renderings fall by the wayside constantly over the years. But ground has finally broken, and there are some big changes coming to the area. In a statement on the upcoming improvements, Governor Cuomo recognized that "LaGuardia is a pillar of New York's transportation network and a key driver of economic growth, but for too long the airport has been unworthy of New York State." With Delta Airlines signing a new lease with the city and promising to invest \$3.4 billion in facilities and renovations that cover the entire eastern half of the airport, things are looking up.

Carpenters are onsite now, and have been since last September doing "exterior framing, building the bridges that get you in and out to the planes and the rotundas," says William Vasquez of Donaldson Interiors. "We're doing exterior for all the metal panel ceilings where you drive underneath the terminal; and then we're doing the interior fit



out, which requires a huge ceiling that runs across two sloped planes. It kind of looks like a boomerang. It's a lot of interior finishing as well, so we're doing big ceiling systems. This is a big drywall ceiling job." He notes that not all of it is a run-of-the-mill job though: "The acoustics are completely different as well. All the exterior bridge panels are going to have five inches of insulation for sound ordinance; but most of the building is glass so you'll be able to see everything." The fact that most of our members are used to being confined within a city block is also a difference for this job. Norman Pottinger, with Cord Contracting notes that "the unique side of this job is that it's not a straight layout. Although the building seems round; the walls are not round, the walls are somewhat segmented, so nothing in the building is straightforward like a right angle like other buildings." He's excited that "it's a little bit more challenging than most jobs we normally layout. You know, unlike regular square walls, this layout covers much more ground and is split up into sections, and they all have to meet up at one point."

Similar to other high-profile projects like World Trade Center or Hudson Yards, LaGuardia is a job that requires a seriously heavy security system. Business Agent Brian Conlon brings up that "before you even start working you have to attend a site orientation, which at LaGuardia is a full-day affair. You have to have a SWAC Card (Secure Worker Access Consortium) as well."

SWAC has been implemented on other public projects as well as high-profile ones, such as WTC and Hudson Yards, but also usually anything that falls under the Port Authority infrastructure agenda, requiring that members go through an application process with governmental ID as well as a background check. Vasquez also brings up that "Port Authority jobs are a lot more stringent with inspections; they want to inspect everything that's done, and with that process they're looking at every bit of, say, a wall, which means across trades." While he notes that "on a job in the city you can close up a wall immediately," on a Port Authority one each trade's work is inspected before moving on from the wall. "You have the general contractor inspecting the wall, you have a private company that's hired by the GC, then you have the architectural inspector checking that it's built to plan, and then lastly you have Port Authority which is mostly concerned with fire safety."

Even if that one wall passes all inspection perfectly, "there's the difference between 'church and state,' over there, over that one wall," says Conlon. "You have to keep that perimeter staying out of the FAA zoned area and the construction site separate; you have to do your work but you can't interfere with the entire apparatus of airline travel," he says. When discussing the security for the job itself, the security of the airport itself is another matter entirely, especially when you consider how long travelers usually spend at an airport not under heavy construction. LaGuardia, however, isn't missing a beat.

“Let’s say they have 36 gates; they have to maintain 35 of them as operational while doing heavy construction, so it’s a big undertaking, a lot of complex scheduling,” says Conlon. Vasquez proudly proclaims that “the airport is not shutting down one bit, we’re not going to lose one flight, not the way that it’s been coordinated. There’s always going to be portions that remain open to the public, as one area closes, another opens, and you begin demolition and construction on a new phase.”

JFK Airport, while in nowhere near as bad a state as LaGuardia, is also seeing billions of dollars in investment. Business Agent Thomas Gaulrapp gave an excellent breakdown of what the next decade holds in terms of member work hours:

“There’s a projected new Terminal 1 starting in September that’s \$6.2 billion; so right now LaGuardia puts out 23 million passengers a year; Terminal 1 is going to put out 24 million alone. It’s going to combine basically all of the international airlines into one. They’re flying those double-decker flights like Air China, Air India, Turkish Airlines and British Airways.

They’ll be doing it piece by piece; they’ll start where the old Terminal 3 was and work their way back to Terminal 1, and in the process of that, Delta is going to be putting a \$2 billion extension on Terminal 4 so that they can eliminate Terminal 2. They’re going to do it where they don’t cancel any flights, like an open build. There are four phases at 28 months a phase, so nine years worth of work. In the process of that, Terminal 5 already has the green light to extend \$2-3 billion worth of work, and they’ll be overtaking portions of Terminal 6 until Terminal 7 gets knocked down in five years. They’ll be doing the whole thing plus the roadways pretty much, and it ties into the Van Wyck extension. Port Authority has put aside about \$1 billion for the work there, and then there’s about \$9-10 billion from private funds from the airlines.”

While that is an impressive amount of work over a long period of time, the piece that is dominating JFK’s construction right now is the TWA Hotel, which will restore the historical 1962 TWA Flight Center into a modern luxury hotel and conference center. Business agent Chris Vesely notes that it being “built in the 60s, structurally it is a very unique building, with only four supportive columns; at the time it was like an architectural wonder.”

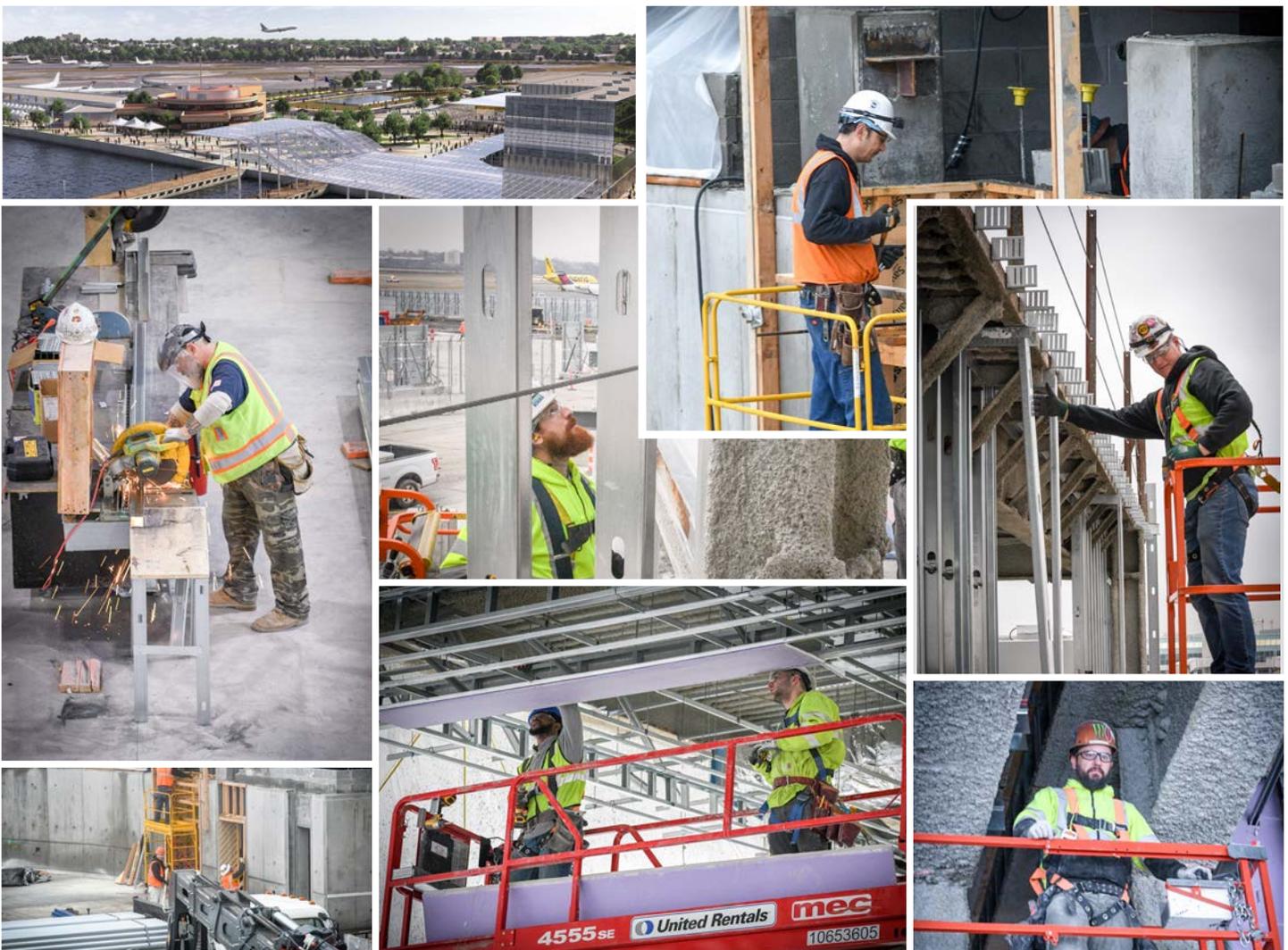




Photo Credit: TWA Hotel at JFK website ([www.twahotel.com](http://www.twahotel.com))

Gaulrapp, noting the history of the terminal, says, “Howard Hughes built this building that is 100 percent concrete—a historic building that was way ahead of its time.” The hotel boasts being 100 percent union built and operated, being the only Air-Tran accessible hotel at JFK, and containing the largest hotel lobby in the world.

While the plans are big, the work is just starting. Foundation company Urban Foundation has completed their work, meaning interior work will begin soon. “Urban had some problems pumping out water because it’s so close to the water table; the equivalent of 5,000 swimming pools of water came out of that job,” says Vesely. “But they still hit their timetable.” “Now we’re starting to do layouts, mock ups, trying to get better blueprints for the flight center because everything is basically round,” says Gaulrapp.

The hotel itself will be a modern marvel of luxury for people who are visiting NYC or pitstopping in the airport. There will be 512 hotel rooms, with a 50,000 square-foot conference center bridging dual high rise buildings. They’ll be renovating concrete flight tubes made famous in the movie “Catch Me If You Can” to connect directly to JetBlue’s Terminal 5. There will be rooftop pools, multiple bars and restaurants, and state-of-the-art glass for sound reduction with such proximity to the fifth busiest airport in the country. “It’s very retro or space age looking. They’re really keeping that nostalgia alive,” says Vesely.



Photo Credit: Governor Cuomo’s Office, LaGuardia Airport Rendering



Members at JFK Airport

## CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR RETIREES

### LOCAL 20

Elias J Capdevila  
Ramdeo Goordeen  
John R Gouldsbury  
Kurt Jellets  
Frank E Martucci  
Christopher J Wallace

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Manuel Coelho  
Guy A Coletta  
Michael J Contratti  
Peter Corra  
Michael Demaio  
Daniel Finneran  
Carl Ian Joshua  
Kevin McLaughlin  
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Thomas F Murphy  
Gregory Neigh  
John P Ormsbee  
Roger Pfeffer  
Joaquim L Portela  
Carlos Santos  
Manuel P Sousa  
Joseph P Trimarco  
Paul Tyznar III  
Andrew Yaciuk

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Manuel R Alvarez  
Pasquale Amoroso Jr  
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Trevor Arnold  
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Denis Bartilucci  
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Bertram J Briscoe  
Bancroft Brown  
Milton R Brumfield  
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Vincent Bubb  
John T Buckley  
Michael R Burns  
Anthony C Calderone  
Albert Camillo  
Carmelo Carcione  
Michael J Carr

Thomas L Carr  
Louville O Carty  
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John E Cassidy  
George Cebek  
Eduardo A Cerutti  
Robert V Checco  
Bing Xiang Chen  
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Joseph Corvino  
Richard Costa  
Joseph F Culhane  
Joseph R Curcio  
Anthony S Damato  
Vanier H Davis  
Christopher Decicco  
Paris A Degrassie  
James V Dematteo  
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James D Devine  
William Dickie  
Bajram Doka  
Michael Dolphin  
Charles Doolan  
Steven Dost  
Jesse Drake  
Zvonko Dunat  
James K Durcan  
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Andrew Fisher  
Francis Flynn  
Ira A Francis  
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Domenick Gagliardi  
Dominic P Gallagher  
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Oscar W Jones  
Cathal Kirley  
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Vito Labita  
Andrew Larsen

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Phil Mando  
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Collis R Pommels  
Gifton E Pothemont  
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Tee Ravetti  
Patrick E Reddan  
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Michael J Reina  
Patrick Riordan  
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Stephen Salvador  
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Richard J Shemper  
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Stanislav Smoter  
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John Wedick  
Gregory Wetzel  
Mark G Wetzel  
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Nathaniel Williams  
Trevor A Williams  
Byron O Willock  
Stanislav Wnuk

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Roger W Lane  
Patrick G Murphy  
Glen Stewart  
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Joseph J Fischetti  
Frederick R Gallo Jr  
Craig E Justman  
Jeffrey E Panas  
Rodney E Poche

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Francis Charlery  
Daniel J Chester  
Ira M Dazle  
Peter Edward  
Robert Haag  
Kenroy Lamey  
Peter G Lowe  
Peter Lowe  
Thomas L Miller  
Antonio A Neto  
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Lionel Edwards  
John Fenton  
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William Correale  
Mark A Dall'Ava  
James D Ellis  
Blazenko Frantini  
Faustino Galeano  
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Hylton Green  
Janusz H Jankowski  
Gilberto Martinez  
Ramon Mercado  
Rafael Montanez  
Benjamin Morales  
Salvatore Moscatiello  
Pedro A Sanchez  
Rafael Sarzosa  
Harold Vanorden  
Chau Vantinh  
Diego Velasquez

# In Memoriam

We honor the following members for their dedication and service to the New York City and Vicinity District Council of Carpenters. Our sincere condolences to their families, friends, and those who worked with them.

## LOCAL 20

Bernard J Capasso  
Benjamin Cirigliano  
James R Howell  
Ralph Jensen  
Jerome Ventra  
Gabriel Vidringstad  
Glen Yeo

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Johnnie Akin  
Salvatore R Antonucci  
Arnold Avotins  
John Barratt  
William Buckley  
Walter Bunes  
Charles Busa  
Robert Caruana  
Nickolas Celenza  
Leonard L D'Aquino  
Angelo M Delligatti  
Paul Del Rosso  
Michael A Dimelfi  
Edward Eppich  
Conrad Fromm  
Norman Greenberg  
Michael Hughes  
Rudolph Johnston  
William Kanzler  
Anthony Labato  
Alexander Longo  
Vilnis Matisons  
Jonathan Mendoza  
John Mulligan  
Michael O'Neill  
Sandy M Primiano  
Osmond Rock  
Jason L Rosenbaum  
Corrado Spadavecchia

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Vicente Almela  
Constantinos Amentas  
Thomas Arrigo  
George Baffi  
Michael F Barlow  
Antonio Betzu  
Harry W Bloechle  
Francis Bowen  
Frederick C Brown  
Nicholas S Brown  
Anton Buchberger  
Robert Bugsch  
Joseph Cambria  
John J Campi  
Vincent Caracappa  
Vincent Caropreso  
Terence P Carroll

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Ralph J Cespuglio  
Walter Conway  
Jason S Creedon  
Jerry J Culleton  
Carmelo Cutrofello  
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Gennaro A Daponte  
Philip Della Pietro  
Cosimo Dibella  
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Joseph Formichelli  
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Richard Garces  
Kalman Gereny  
Charlesworth Gonsalves  
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Samuels Guillermo  
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David Helman  
William M Herman  
Ishmel S Hodge  
Doan O Hoffmann  
Fermin A Iglesias  
Sheldon Jacobs  
Effingham James  
Juan C James  
Walter Johannesen  
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Sidney Konig  
Patrick A Lally  
Frank Leone  
Andrew Lewis  
Dmitriy M Lisovskiy  
Pietro A Macri  
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Dominick Talio  
Verdun Taylor  
Dino Tomasi  
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Eric Worrell  
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Eric Thomas

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Higinio Bonilla  
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Harold Lange  
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James A McDonald  
Kenneth Pearson  
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Marvin Siegel  
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Antonio Antonucci  
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Kurt Brunkhorst  
Anthony Bruno  
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Crescencio Camejo  
Pedro Coronel  
Anthony Coulanges  
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William Palacino  
Andre Palliant  
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Frank Vanacore  
Orlando Vargas  
Francisco Velez  
Felix Villarreal  
Wilhelm Wagner  
Owen Watson  
Charles Wild  
Cleveland Williams  
Robert A Zampino



## New York City & Vicinity District Council of Carpenters

395 Hudson St., 9th FL.  
New York, NY 10014



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Assessments - (212) 366-7375  
Benefit Fund - (212) 366-7373 or (800) 529-FUND  
Business Representative Center  
• (Manhattan) - (212) 366-7345  
• (Queens) - (718) 468-4056  
Carpenters Training Center - (212) 727-2224  
Change of Address - (212) 366-7336  
Communications - (212) 366-7326  
Daily Reporting Hotline - (212) 366-3331  
Inspector General - (212) 366-3354  
IG Hotline - (855) UBC-TIPS  
Member Services - (212) 366-7311  
Out of Work List - (212) 366-3330  
OWL Toll Free - (800) 858-8683  
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Local 1556 Timbermen & Dockbuilders - (212) 989-2284  
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