
HEADLINE

By ISRAEL MIRANDA

My Union Sitters and Brothers, we have had numerous assaults recently, and some had to do with poor or absent radio communications. In September the Chief of EMS addressed this membership division frequencies in our portable radios in Brooklyn. This never happened. I reached out to management which had no encouraging information on moving forward. This Local filed a PESH complaint with the Department of Labor and tied this issue with violence in the workplace. Shortly after the complaint was filed, the department decided to implement P.D. Division frequencies in the Division 3 radios in Brooklyn. Coincidence or not, we will continue to address this issue until we have these frequencies in every division portable radio. Members should only use these P.D. frequencies when reporting a crime in progress or they are facing physical danger.

Please do not use these frequencies for ETA's on a RMP, gain entries, call backs or buffing jobs. Big brother will be waiting for an excuse to remove these frequencies and say we can't be trusted. Remember these vehicles have BPS and Management tracks everyone's movement. Continue to update your status when not on a job and leaving your 89. I have seen numerous changes packages where the tracking systems on our ambulances have contradicted the locations our members have stated they were in. Don't show 89 while these tracking devices show you driving all over the borough. Be smart, update your status appropriately to avoid problems.

Quarter Master Agreement—On January 21st, the union met with management on the issue of changing our negotiated agreement without our approval. This had to do with the Department implementing a certain boot and removing our alternative footwear. We stated that this new boot was a addition to our existing Quarter-Master Agreement and not to replace our option that were in place. We understand that this is their problem but we are willing to assist them with their problem. It was agreed that the department will plot two other boots which are dual cer-

tified so we may probably agree on alternative footwear.

In the meantime, the Department of Labor has issued the Fire Department four citations in rotation to bunker gear and their exposure control plan. The employer did not ensure that personal protective equipment such as bunker gear suits are cleaned or laundered as required by the standard.



Also the exposure control plan training program was found to be deficient. The union position was that it was improper for members to take their uniforms or P.P.E. home to clean in the same machine their family's clothing is washed. We still believe it is management problem and responsibility to clean or decontaminate all issued uniforms and P.P.E. We had recommended front loading washing machines for each work site, but at the end of the day, this is management's problem to solve.

The Department of Labor has recently been visiting our Fire Inspector Units. The truck tank unit was visited first and citations will follow shortly. A Pesh Inspector will interview members of each unit, to understand the dangers you may face on a day to day basis. Also, what equipment you may need that was not issued to accomplish enforcing the fire code. This inspector from D.O.L. does not know what your job entails, so you must paint him a picture verbally for certain scenarios you found yourself without proper P.P.E.

In unity there is strength, we must continue to drive as one to reach our goals.

In Solidarity

Israel Miranda
Vice President

Family—What does that really mean (Parents and their children: a group of people connected by blood or marriage and sharing a common ancestry.) as we look. At this meaning that fits us members of Local 2507. We are a family with over 3000 member strong, as a family we all have different roles. Some of us are health and care givers and also for protection of life and property. Even though our functions may be different, we are one family, are there problems in families yes, but blood is thicker than water, so we stay together. **(Parents**—We have leadership, administrative, attorneys, delegates and Executive staff that has studied and also put its members 1st. with the best Union staff for our Protection. **(Connected**—we are one body joined together for everyone's interest. when one of us benefits from something we all do reap. when one of us hurts we all hurt. **(Common ancestry**—we all are a extension of our on immediate families. sharing a legacy of hard work and commitment, in what ever we do for the city and this Department FDNY. As a Family we must always protect each other to the fullest.

I AM MY BROTHERS KEEPER

By **RENAE O'CARROLL**, *Executive Board Member*

These very powerful words are used as a means of solidarity. I ask myself how many of us can, not only say this but, mean it as well? The positions that we the members have taken on in this department are a very challenging ones, from the average sick calls to the cardiac arrests. I know I have mentioned this in past articles, I'm choosing to say it again due to the lack of respect that our members shows towards each another. A good example is not acknowledging one another in emergency rooms or even at the stations. True I will be the first to say that there are those few that are introverts, but for the most part, a fellow co-worker will always welcome a greeting. Fellow co-workers will always welcome the words, "JOB WELL DONE". What I and others witness is the constant complaints and snitching on one another and the running back and forth to management about

petty little issues that can be handled between brothers and sisters. (TRUST ME WHEN I SAY: YOU ARE NOT GAINING ANY BROWNIE POINTS WITH MANAGEMENT BY DOING THAT)! When we go running to management about our partners, we are making them obligated to address the issue, remember this department holds both of parties culpable, i.e. "CONDUCT UNBECOMING". I challenge the members to ask themselves first if an issue is a serious enough to take to management. There are some issues that are, but most are not. Consider the issue thoroughly, and then decide whether or not the issue is something that co-workers can resolve between one another and not involve management. Sometimes all it takes is a short separation like maybe doing a mutual for a tour or two or even the relief of your pass days for things to dissolve, and usually it does, then you too can recite these powerful words: I AM MY BROTHERS KEEPER.

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER LET'S BE STRONG TOGETHER

By **ANTHONY MIRANDA**, *Executive Board Member*

Once again my brothers and sisters, another newspaper is sent to you to inform what has happened and things that will be happening. The main goal at this newspaper is for everyone to give strength in knowledge.

This March I will be 22 years in this job. I have involved myself in different parts of this job. Speakers have ceremonial detail unit and for 18 years involved with our union. I have always found pleasure in serving people and finding joy in helping my fellow workers. I meet many people out in the field that have question about how messed up things are in this job and what is everyone else doing to improve it. Well my brothers and sisters, here is a news flash, all of us need to step up and help improve things. It may be helping around your station. Helping a new co-worker that is having problems at your station. If you see a superior taking advantage of people a procedures at your get involved and stop the abuse, you need to get knowledge about your rights and what the operative guide says. Superior constantly miss interpret the operative guide, when you show superior that you know what you are talking about they are not going to mess with you I found 90% of this job is learning to get along with your partner and supervisor. Dealing with public isn't that hard. My guy has been taking the operating guide that usually is missed interpreted and without getting or threats shove it back in their face. When you are known as a person that has his fix together, that when your daily job environment becomes better. This is when things self improve on this job when we learn how to handle the al of he job and turn them around. I look forward to see-

ing you at the membership meeting. Please introduce yourself. I look forward to work with you in a better emergency medical service and union. Hopefully you have and some strength in what you read in this newsletter and go out there and make a difference. God bless you all.



Caption

TO A NEW BEGINNING

By JULES, *Vice President, Chapter 1, Local 2507*

Fire Protection Inspectors throughout the Bureau of Fire Prevention begin 2008 with a renewed sense of purpose. We were well served by Chapter 21, Local 375 of DC 37 in past years. The local's leadership was serious and determined in pursuit of its goals. We will remain their friends and allies forever. We are now part of something much greater. We are now members of a brotherhood. Our affiliation with Local 2507 marks the creation of a special bond that will not be broken under any circumstances.

The extraordinary bond that has been created must nonetheless be nurtured and never taken for granted. We must work together and make sacrifices that many union members in locals with more complacent leadership would never be asked to make. We must coordinate action in the context of meaningful goals. These goals naturally involve improvements in our salary structure and benefits, professional development, as well as additional training and other opportunities for growth.

We must act in a manner which never compromises our individual dignity as Local 2507 members or the mission of the Local. This involves clarity of judgment in recognizing just who our friends, allies and adversaries happen to be and acting in accord with these distinctions. Failure to do so undermines the unity that so many of us have worked so very hard to create. This can never be considered acceptable by our

progressive members and our resolute leadership.

Our 250 members have an importance to New York City vastly out of proportion to our numbers. We perform well over 150,000 inspections annually and create a revenue stream of over \$40,000,000.00. The leadership of our chapter will continuously publicize this. You should never lose sight of the tremendous scope of our work, and never tire speaking of it. You should be immensely proud to be a part of an elite group of professionals. As you know, our members inspect all premises storing or operating hazardous materials or equipment throughout New York City, and witness the testing of standpipe and sprinkler systems. Inspectors act in concert with the Bureau of Operations and are present to ensure safety at concerts, movie sets, Broadway shows and parades, whenever special effects are in use. I could happily write volumes more, but as anyone can readily see, the scope of our mission is more than impressive.

The leadership of Local 2507 has been and will be outspoken and forthright when interacting with the Executive Management staff of the Fire Department and City Hall. Your continued participation in union meetings and activity is both expected and greatly appreciated. We wish to hear from you; of course, you may be outspoken and forthright as well. These are great virtues when our members are also patient and dedicated. I look forward to making common cause with you throughout the coming year. It will be both an honor and a pleasure. Take care.

AMERICAN RED NECKS

The term "red neck" has its American roots in the history and struggles of the United Mine Workers Union. The Battle of Blair Mountain was the largest organized armed uprising in American labor history and led almost directly to the labor laws currently in effect. For nearly a week in late August and early September 1921, in Logan County, West Virginia, 15,000 coal miners of the fledgling United Mine Workers Union confronted state, federal and private troops in an effort to unionize the southwestern West Virginia non union coal mines. Unionization had succeeded in all other counties of West Virginia, but was being hampered by an unprecedented management practice of immigrant hiring and exploitation of immigrants in the region.

At a rally on August 7, Mother Jones called on the miners to march into Logan and Mingo counties and set up the union by force. Armed men began gathering at Lens Creek, Kanawha County on August 20, and by four days later up to 15,000 had gathered and began marching towards Logan County. The union mine workers wore red bandanas as a means of friend or foe designation. Hence the term "red neck" became part of the American lexicon. Meanwhile, the reviled and anti union Sheriff of Logan County, Don Chafin, had begun to set up

defenses on Blair Mountain. Chafin was supported by the Logan County Coal Operators Association.

By August 29, battle was fully joined. Chafin's men, though outnumbered, had the advantage of higher positions and automatic weaponry. Private planes were hired to drop homemade bombs on the miners. Up to 30 deaths were reported on both sides, with many hundreds more injured. By September 2, however, federal troops had arrived. The fledgling United States Army Air Service dropped a few pipe and tear gas bombs as a demonstration meant to overpower the labor organizers. It was the only time in the history of the U.S. that the government ordered military aircraft used against its own people.

Following the battle, 985 miners were indicted for "murder, conspiracy to commit murder, accessory to murder, and treason against the State of West Virginia." Though some were acquitted by sympathetic juries, many were also imprisoned for a number of years, though they were paroled in 1925. Short term, the battle seemed to be an overwhelming victory for management as membership in the union initially declined. However by 1930 membership had risen to well over 50,000 as all West Virginia coal mines were unionized.

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“LABOR AND ELECTORAL POLITICS”

By Muata Greene

As we get closer and closer to Presidential election this year and the talk about the election process it becomes important for us as union workers to know about history of labor involvement in Americas politics. This will be part one of a series. The history of workers involvement in the electoral process in United States dates back to post Civil War, when domestic workers barley out of slavery organize themselves to voice their grievance- sand submitted petition to the mayor of Jackson, Mississippi.

The Jackson women formulated a structure of both trade unionism and business organization.

During this time the Populist movement was developing in response to falling agricultural prices and the growing economic dependency in rural areas, small farmers faced economic problems like the sharecropping system which led poor black and white farmers into proverty.

In 1890's the Populist movement evolved into the People's Party, which attracted not just farmers but all" producing classes" like miners and industrial workers. To spread their message they put out pamphlets on political and economic questions estab-

lished over 1,000 local newspapers and sent speakers throughout rural America.

The People's Party paper in Georgia in 1893 stated "the power of the individual sinks, Day by day the power of the classes, or the corporations rises. In all essential respects, the republic of our fathers is dead."

In 1894 the Populist made a effort to appeal more to urban workers by supporting the demand for federal unemployment relief. In rural areas the Populist vote increased, but urban workers did not rally because the core issues of the Populist subtreasury and lower mortgage interest had little meaning because rise in farm goods meant they would have to pay more for food.

In the next issue I will tell you about the "Great Migration" of Black workers from the south to the north after World War 1, which affected labor political agenda in 1920's

Reference: Give Me Liberty! Vol 2 by Eric Foner.



FLYING HIGH IN THE FRIENDLY SKY.....

If your old enough to remember that immortal song from the late great Legendary singer Marvin Gaye, he sang about his battles with substance abuse and how it almost destroyed his life.

Being clean and sober myself 15 plus years, it saddens me when I hear of some of our members still battling the disease of addiction in this day and age. We have made progress over the years to finally recognize Alcohol and Drug abuse as a Disease, help is out there.

While I might not agree with The Departments stands of zero tolerance, they do offer some help. Any member can contact CSU at any time and request to speak to a counselor. Any member can reach out to the Local and help can be arranged. Members can go outside of the Dept. and The Local on their own to receive help and be protected from reprisal.

Some of us might be in denial when it comes substance abuse and are willing to roll the dice when it comes to their job and family life. That is a big gamble and eventually you will loose. I've heard all the excuses when come to substance abuse, "I do it

occasionally" "I'm so stressed out" "What I do off duty is nobody's business" "I can handle it" and to that I tell them about my good friends Louie, John and Richie who lost their lives on this job, I tell them about the countless other friends of mine who lost their jobs.

There is hope when it comes to the disease of addiction, I'm living proof. If you think you might have a problem, you have a problem! Reachout and lets gets some help.

I'll leave you with another verse from a song by Marvin Gaye, "For those of us who tend the sick
Ah, and heed the people's cries
Let me say to you
Right on"

Peace and Blessings!
Joe Conzo
Sect/Tres UEP
Batt. 18

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**UNIFORMED EMT's, PARAMEDICS & FIRE INSPECTORS—F.D.N.Y.
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UEP Bulletin

THE WORLD TRADE CENTER MEDICAL MONITORING AND TREATMENT PROGRAM

BY PATRICK J. BAHNKEN

Many of us are often unaware of, or fail to avail ourselves of benefits that are provided to us at no cost. One such benefit is the World Trade Center Medical Monitoring and Treatment Program through the FDNY Bureau of Health Services.

This program was established to address the physical and psychological impact of the September 11th attacks. Rather than waiting for Workers Compensation to approve diagnostic exams or medical interventions for problems related to the Trade Center, members can receive instant approval, free medication and if needed, instant approval for surgical intervention. Members should still file for workers compensation but rather than wait for approval while your health deteriorates, you can have your needs addressed immediately.

Over the past few months, members who served at the Trade Center in the immediate aftermath of the attacks were offered free CAT Scans of the chest and abdomen. The eligibility criteria for this exam are available through the Bureau of Health Services. Although many were contacted, few availed themselves of this important diagnostic exam.

It was through this very exam that my Renal Cell Carcinoma was discovered in its' early stages. In December, I underwent surgery for removal of a portion of my left kidney. I expect to make a full recovery and returned to full duty in mid January.

I do not share this with you to seek your sympathy but rather to impart with you several very important points.

First, despite rumors to the contrary, this service is completely confidential. No one knew of my illness until I decided to disclose it. Second, most cancers are easily survivable if discovered in their early stages. Unfortunately, most cancers are not discovered until they have spread and become symptomatic.

Perhaps the most important point is that if you were at the Trade Center early or for an extended period of time, you have an opportunity to either establish a negative baseline or discover a serious medical issue before it becomes a life threatening one.



In closing, if you want more information, contact the Bureau of Health Services. All information is strictly confidential and all services are free.

In Solidarity

Patrick J. Bahnken
President

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be called in or emailed to
the following news media:**

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1-212-210-NEWS**

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