



# Local 1321 News

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## EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Local 1321 thanks Jim Taylor who retired from the Library and resigned from Local 1321 for his many years of dedicated service, we will miss him very badly.

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Jean Douglas, made its report at the general membership meeting on November 19, 2002 at the Forest Hills Jewish Center. Three names were submitted: Christine Gina, John Hyslop and Deborah Wynn. One of the candidates, Christine Gina, has decided to withdraw from the election. This means that the candidates for this office are: John Hyslop (L.I. Division), and Deborah Wynn (North Hills)

The members of the Election Committee are: Steve Nobel (Mv), Jane Smith (Ke), and Linda Stacer (CDD) The Election Committee will meet in early December to determine the conduct of the election. The schedule for the election is: ballots will be mailed out on

December 27, 2002 and must be returned no later than January 22, 2003 (ballots received after that date will not be counted). The ballots will be counted on January 26, 2003 with each candidate being allowed one observer. If you do not receive a ballot by January 7, 2003 call the Local office at 718-264-0787.

## DRESS CODE AND DEMONSTRATION



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As most of you know, we held a demonstration on July 31st to protest unilateral changes to the dress code and that this demonstration received national and international attention, including an e-mailed letter of support from a librarian working at Cambridge University. The Library finally responded in a letter dated October 16th to Joel Giller, the General Counsel of

DC37 and stated that :bringing an action before the NLRB or PERB would not be a wise use of our resources. If the Union wished to put the dress policy on the agenda for Collective Bargaining, the Library will discuss the matter at the bargaining table in "good faith". Needless to say I have already asked DC37 to do this.

## **CUSTODIAL, MAINTAINER & CLERICAL RAISES**

On August 14, 2002 the City and DC37 settled on the remaining 1% for the maintainers. It adds 7, 10 and 15 year steps to the maintainer contract. After completing 7 years of service an additional \$251.00 is added to salary; after completing 10 years an additional \$502.00 is added, after 15 years an additional \$693.00 is added. This totals \$1446 to which the \$800.00 15 year longevity is added bringing the total value at 15 years to \$2,241.00.

On August 15, 2002 the City and DC37 settled the clerical 1%. Under this plan we achieve equity with other DC37 clerical units who have used the office aide 2 title. Now all clerks will mature to office aide 2 after completion of 1 year.

## **THE CASH DRAWER ISSUE**

Several office associates met with David Paskin of DC37's Research & Negotiations staff to explain the extreme impact that the new cash drawer system is having on employees. A labor management meeting has been scheduled for January 6, 2003. The Union will be represented by David Paskin, DC37 Rep Hector Coto, John Socha, Jane Smith and a senior branch manager.

## **BLUE COLLAR MEETING**

The blue collar meeting was conducted by Debbie Wynn and Danny Messina in the Queens Village branch. Quite a number of issues were brought up and included: custodial pairing, the impact of the doubling of the parking fines on the MVO's, the use of personal autos, and a number of other issues. A labor management meeting has been requested to deal with these issues.

## **USE OF PERSONAL AUTO**

I strongly urge that CUSTODIANS DO NOT USE THEIR OWN VEHICLES WHEN COVERING ANOTHER AGENCY SINCE THE QUEENS LIBRARY WILL NOT ASSUME ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR

ACCIDENTS OR TRAFFIC/PARKING VIOLATIONS.

## **PRESCRIPTION DRUG UPDATE**

Members who suffer from GERD or Gastro-Esophageal Reflux Disease, have had their prescriptions for the following medications (Prilosec, Nexium, and Protonix) denied after an original approval of up to 90 days. Needless to say, many need a continuation of these prescriptions. A member must then have his/her physician write a letter stating that the member needs to have a continuation of the prescription, and must send a copy of the biopsy and endoscopy (picture of the stomach) to the DC37 Health & Security Plan, attention Prescription Drug Unit, 125 Barclay Street, New York, NY, 1007. This process has to be repeated every year

## **RETIREMENT INCENTIVES**

The Director of Human Resources of QBPL, Bill Dietz, informed Hector Coto and I on Wed., November 13, 2002 that QBPL will be offering the NYSRS "2002 Retirement Incentive Program for Local Government Employees" from January 1, 2003 thru March 31, 2003. To be eligible an employee MUST have both completion of 25 years of service and 55 years of age. This is called the part B, the Library has refused to take

part in the part A, because of staff shortages. Information from NYSRS can be found on their website at:

<http://www.osc.state.ny.us/>

or by calling (518) 474-7736.

Information about your social security can be gotten from social security's number at 1-800-772-7736.

## **COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP FOR YOUR CHILD OR GRANDCHILD**

An important, but often overlooked benefit of union membership is the opportunity for your child to apply for a college scholarship from your union. Local 1321 is a member of District Council 37, which offers scholarships each year to deserving students.

**Read the PEP (Public Employee Press) and apply when the form is printed!**

Your child doesn't have to be a straight A student to apply.

Another source of union scholarships for your child or financially dependent grandchild is AFSCME (American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees) of which DC 37 is a part. **Check the AFSCME Website under Scholarships**

**(<http://www.afscme.org/about/greenrm.htm#scholarships>)**

First, there are ten \$2,000 AFSCME Family Scholarships (renewable for up to four years) awarded each year. In addition, AFSCME offers the Jerry Clark Memorial Scholarship. This is a \$10,000 scholarship awarded to a political science major at the beginning of their junior year. The scholarship is renewable for the senior year.

**Read the AFSCME Magazine and apply!**

Remember when planning for your child's education to consider other scholarship sources. Your fraternal organization, your school's alumni group, any organization of which you are a member may be able to provide the means of making college a reality for your child

## **CALENDARS**

The annual pocket calendar/planner should be in the mail to every member by Friday, December 6th. If you do not get your calendar by December 15th call the Local office at 264-0787, chances are that DC37 does not have you on the print out. We will send you a "DC37 Dues Deduction card" and the 2003 calendar.

