



Local 1321 News

Queens Library Guild, Local 1321, DC 37, AFSCME, AFL-CIO, 125 Barclay Street New York, NY 10007

Queens Library Guild Local 1321

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President's Message —

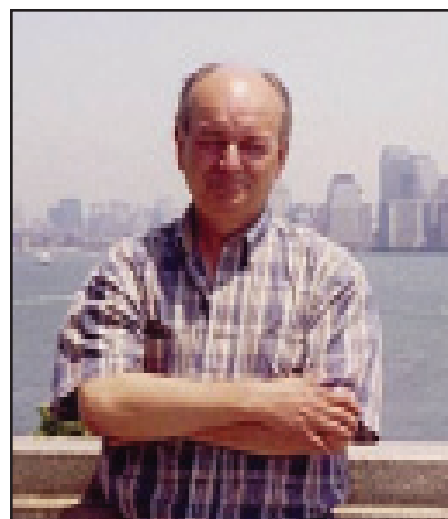
I Will Treasure the Memory of My Friends and Colleagues

LBJ was the president when I was hired by QBPL as a librarian trainee in October 1967. I spent my early years in the Central Library, mainly in the History, Travel & Biography section. I got my MLS from Pratt in 1970 and went out into the branches. There I worked just about every librarian position from reference to YA, ABLM, BLM and BLM/J. My longest tenure anywhere was at Seaside (I liked it so much that I now live five blocks from the branch and plan on becoming one of the borrowers).

I am originally from Tampa, Florida (which answers the question of where I got my accent). I went to schools in Miami, Brooklyn and Suffolk County.

My union activity began while I was in HTB. Just like in the branches, I held just about every office in Local 1321 and became president in 1994, just before the scandals hit DC 37. I was also elected as a DC 37 Vice President in 2003 and re-elected in 2004. I got the opportunity to chair the DC 37 Election Committee during the administratorship. The things that I am proudest of are: running a clean local and being part of the "reformers" at DC 37.

I still find it hard to believe that I have been here for 38 ½ years, but as I tell people I cannot imagine that I could



have done anything else and enjoyed it as much. I am proud that you have allowed me to represent your interests for the last 12 years, and I will always treasure the memory of my friends and colleagues.

In Solidarity,

John Socha
President



Local 1321 Bids a Fond Farewell to President John Socha

After more than 38 years at Queens Library, John Socha will be enjoying a well-earned retirement. In his final president's message, John looks back on his career as a librarian and a union representative. Thank you, John, for your hard work for the employees of Queens Borough Public and the people of Queens! Congratulations!

Subcommittees formed to speed wage talks

By GREGORY N. HEIRES

Union and city negotiators have established joint working groups to discuss key issues in the bargaining for a new economic agreement.

As PEP went to press, the DC 37 Negotiating Committee was scheduled to meet with city negotiators March 30 to continue talks about the new pact. Both sides hoped that the work of the bargaining subcommittees, which were set up at a Feb. 21 meeting, would lead to progress at the March 30 session.

"We have stressed to the city that we would like to wrap up negotiations as soon as possible," said DC 37 Executive Director Lillian Roberts. "That is one of the reasons we wanted subcommittees to help in the process."

The subcommittees are assigned to deal with welfare fund benefits, citywide issues, pensions and a salary review procedure.

The Welfare Fund Subcommittee met March 7 and exchanged views about the union and city demands concerning benefit coverage, including funding for the prescription drug benefit.

The Citywide Subcommittee



SALARY REVIEW Subcommittee meets March 7. Salary group, one of four joint labor-management teams formed to speed bargaining, includes Treas. Maf Misbah Uddin (left) and Research and Negotiations Dir. Dennis Sullivan (2nd from left).

met March 7 and March 14 on subjects such as meal and mileage allowances, time and leave issues and civil service and personnel matters. The Salary Review Subcommittee met March 15 and the Pension Subcommittee on March 22.

The city and union opened the new round of bargaining on Dec. 5. The union presented its demands at the opening session, and the city issued its proposals on Feb. 7. The city's demands include pension and health-care modifications.

Both sides have agreed to refer health-care matters to the Municipal Labor Committee. United Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten is chair and Roberts is secretary of the MLC, an umbrella group of city unions that negotiates on health and welfare benefits for municipal employees.

The citywide economic agreement under negotiation covers nearly 100,000 municipal employees represented by DC 37. The previous agreement expired June 30, 2005, but its

provisions remain in effect during the negotiations.

The union proposed a two-year pact with a fair, reasonable and livable wage increase and the preservation of health and other benefits. The city has proposed a three-year agreement with a first year wage increase of 3.15 percent and additional raises to be funded, in part, through cost-savings initiatives.

Reprinted from the April 2006 Public Employee Press. Watch for updates on contract bargaining in future issues of the PEP.

Shop Steward Raul Martinez



My name is Raul Martinez, and I have successfully completed the District Council 37 General Shop Steward Training. The course was very insightful and informative. I am looking forward to taking the Advanced Grievance course in the fall of 2006.

Mr. Larry Kelly, Assistant Director, DC 37 Education Department, led the course. He presented a detailed lecture on the labor movement, how unions began and how they have evolved. He also talked about the role of a Shop Steward.

Several guest speakers lectured on their specialized area of work and provided informative material for the participants. Ms. Nola Brooker, Assistant Director, DC 37 Research and Negotiation Department, gave a lecture on Collective Bargaining and contract

negotiations. Mr. Dennis Deahn, Director of Field Services, DC 37 Health and Pension Services Unit, gave excellent information on health benefits and retirement. Ms. Rebecca Porper, Principal Program Coordinator, DC 37 Safety and Health Dept., explained how to file a grievance about health and safety issues.

During our last meeting, Mr. Kelly lectured on Sexual Harassment and how to stop it in the work place. He presented General Shop Steward Training Certificates to each class participant.

Armed with a wealth of information from the Shop Steward Training course, I am looking forward to working with library staff to address concerns or issues you may have. I can be reached at 718-990-8682 or via email at rmartinezqbpl@hotmail.com.

Sincerely,
Raul Martinez



39 ½ years...and *John Socha* is ready to **PARTY
and **then relax** and **then party some more!****

*Co-workers, friends and family come honor John's
dedication to the Queens Library, its employees and the labor
movement, and celebrate his new life of leisure.*

*Location: Joe Abbracciamento's Restaurant,
62-96 Woodhaven Boulevard
Rego Park (directions on the back)
When: May 3rd at 7pm.
Dinner and Gift: \$50.00
Gift: \$15.00*

***Please send contributions to John Hyslop,
Long Island Division,
Central Library
89-11 Merrick Boulevard
Jamaica, NY 11432
by **April 28, 2006.*****

*If you have any questions he can be reached at
(718)990-0770.*

Council Representative Stephanie Miller



I was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, where I still reside with my husband of 23 years. We have two wonderful adult sons Kareem and Kory.

I started my career at DC 37 in 1984. For the first 14 years I worked in the Municipal Employees Legal Services, where I worked as a Secretary, Clerical Coordinator and Assistant to the Systems Manager. In 1998 I became a Council Representative in the Schools Division, where I represented Board of Education employees. Currently, I work in the Professional Division representing Public Health Nurses and Epidemiologists along with my new assignment representing the Queens Public Library employees.

I am pleased to add you to the list of employees that I have had the privilege to represent and look forward to doing what has been so fulfilling for me. **HELPING PEOPLE.**