



# COMMUNIQUE

# VOTING

## MORE THAN JUST A RIGHT

Importance of Voting  
Especially for Union Members

Fighting Voter Suppression

Election Day Mishaps  
& What You Need To Know About Voting

How a **PUBLIC SECTOR UNION**  
Came to Represent Private Sector Groups



# IMPORTANCE OF VOTING

**“The whole purpose of democracy is for every person to have a say in what goes on, and when less than half the country is voting, not everyone’s voice is being heard. And when not everyone is being heard, that’s not a democracy.”**

## Why You Should Vote In This Year’s Elections

### It is not just the president on the ballot

How much the next president can do depends on which political party controls the Senate and the House. The size of those parties’ majorities also makes a difference. A filibuster-proof supermajority in the Senate, for instance, can enable or cripple a president much more decisively than a simple majority.

### Higher turnout makes our democracy more representative

Many Americans who support labor-friendly policies do not bother voting — particularly in elections when the presidency is not at stake.

### Voting is a right generations of Americans struggled to win and people in other countries are still fighting for

Citizens may take their right to vote for granted, but it wasn’t that long ago when entire groups of the population — like women and African-Americans — were denied that right. Women gained suffrage in 1919, meaning the grandmothers of many not-voting millennials were alive during a time when they were prohibited from casting a ballot.

### Voting is your voice

Voting is an important, meaningful way to back the issues you care about — and the representatives you think can best effect the changes you want to see. If nothing else, voting gives you a justifiable right to complain about your elected officials. Your grievances will carry more weight if you speak out as a voter trying to hold your candidates accountable for their promises.

# Especially for Union Members

Contributors: Veronica Windley and  
Marci Rosenblum, Local 1180 Communications Director

**VOTING.** Everyone talks about it. Not enough actually do it.

There is so much hype about voting. We are encouraged by our parents and families to vote. Politicians tell us we need to vote. And even our union reminds us to cast our vote on Election Day. Yet, too many still ask “what’s the big deal; why should I bother”?

Voting — an expression of opinion or preference. Considering how many things in the United States are decided by voting, more people should be running to the polls. President, governors, state and federal legislators, and judges are all voted on by the general population.

“Considering how much of our government, and everything else for that matter, revolves around voting and elections, it would seem likely that more of us would be rushing to the voting booth,” said CWA Local 1180 President Arthur Cheliotas. “No matter how many times people are told that voting is a right and a responsibility, that voting is in the best interests of all of labor, that voting is a necessity for labor unions to succeed, not enough of us actually head to the polls.”

According to published reports, the 2008 US Census Bureau says that only 63% of all people registered to vote actually did so. That doesn’t seem like such a horrible number until you realize that only 72% of Americans are even registered to vote in the first place. In reality, only 45% of Americans are voting in elections even though the general populace has the power to sway this country.

Here’s a quick history lesson from [constitutioncenter.org](http://constitutioncenter.org): Amendment XXVI gives young adults between the age of 18 and 21 the right to vote. The measure is another in a line of constitutional changes that expanded the right to vote to more citizens. At the time of the ratification of the Constitution in 1788, most states limited voting to white, male citizens who were over the age of 21.

It took 82 years for African American slaves to gain a constitutional right to vote, 132 years for women’s suffrage and 183 years for those 18 to 21 years old to join the voting population. The impetus for this change was the passage of amendments to the Voting Rights Act in 1970 that set 18 as the minimum voting age for both federal and state elections.

**Voters have said time and again that there just isn’t anyone worth voting for so they won’t be going to the polls. As a labor union, members must spread the word that nothing can be further from the truth.**

The problem is that young adults and minorities often see little value in actually voting for anything other than President. What they don’t realize is that everyday things like college financial aid, the opportunity for jobs, and how much they pay in taxes are all controlled by politicians. So in reality, casting a vote in your late teens and early 20s actually **does** make a difference. According to an article in the *New York Times*, “In one of the more pleasant surprises of this presidential campaign, young Americans are voting in big numbers, contributing to some unexpected results so far. This is the first presidential campaign in which people age 18 to 29 make up the same proportion of the electorate as do baby boomers — about one-third. This year, the youth turnout for both parties in the primaries so far is rivaling 2008, the year of Barack Obama’s first campaign.”

That’s the good news. However, while the U.S. may be the world’s oldest continuous democracy, we won’t remain a democracy if people don’t vote. Reports show that this country had the ninth lowest voting rate among the 35 countries in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development ([huffingtonpost.com](http://huffingtonpost.com)). The 2008 presidential election, in which the first African American had a chance to lead our nation, saw more people register to vote than in recent history.

The excitement and enthusiasm that surrounded that election year, and the subsequent 2012 election year, gave Americans something to be proud of. Everyone wanted to be a part of history in casting their vote to put a non-traditional white male in the Oval Office.

The same type of invigoration and rejuvenation in the American spirit that President Obama instilled in our youth and black populations, is what Bernie Sanders did in this election cycle. According to that same *New York Times* article, “Many find it odd that the 74-year-old Sanders would have this appeal. But John Della Volpe wasn’t surprised. Surveying young voters in November 2015, Della Volpe, the director of polling at the Harvard Institute of Politics, noted that support for Sanders among potential voters age 18 to 29 had rocketed from 1 percent to 41 percent in about six months. Asked what they valued most in a candidate, young voters said integrity, level-headedness, and authenticity, in that order. Political and business experience were far down the list.”

Young voters have typically been tough to motivate. They just don’t see the value in voting. They want to take on active rolls in campaigns. They want to volunteer. They just need a reason to do so. And there’s one of the underlying problems with getting different age groups out to vote. There needs to be a reason.

Fast forward to the November 2016 election and that enthusiasm has significantly waned. Voters have said time and again that there just isn’t anyone worth voting for so they won’t be going to the polls. As a labor union, members must spread the word that nothing can be further from the truth. The race for president is not the only seat New Yorkers will be voting on, as our state Senators and Assemblymembers are also on the ballot, as are all Congressional seats and one U.S. Senate seat from New York, numerous local judges and other seats. But it’s the race for president that’s going to come down to the wire.

It’s beyond baffling to hear Americans of all ages say they aren’t going to vote. Consider this: if just one person decides not to vote and convinces 10 friends to do the same, and those 10 friends each convince 10 more friends not to vote, this country will have a huge “snowball effect” of no one voting.

As union members, our votes hold a lot of weight. CWA and Local 1180 spend ample time scrutinizing candidates and throw their weight behind those who will be labor friendly and work with unions on issues and causes of importance to our members. Since there is strength in numbers, if members get behind the labor-endorsed candidates and all head to the polls, we can succeed in putting the right politicians in office. With major issues in this election centering on wages and income inequality, union members are expected to turn out in record numbers, according to Cheliotas.

He said that as a country, we need to work together to stem a system that is controlled by the rich and corporations, a conclusion that is backed by recent research of political scientists.

According to PewResearchCenter, the economy and terrorism are the top two issues for voters this fall. Overall, 84% of registered voters say that the issue of the economy will be very important to them in making their decision for president and 80% say terrorism will be an important determining factor. Other top-ranking issues of importance in how Americans will cast their vote are foreign policy, health care, gun control and immigration. An open seat on the U.S. Supreme Court also weighs in to some voters’ decision making.

“These are issues of importance across the board, regardless of which populace you fall into,” Cheliotas said. “And these are the issues that Local 1180 and CWA have delved into when deciding which candidates to support.

“Being a member of a union and exercising your right to vote should be something you set aside time for on Election Day,” he said. “No matter what your age, religion, gender or color, we all need to vote. We are the 99%. Our voices must be heard. As individuals, no one hears us. As union members, united for the causes we believe in, our roar is deafening.”

Cheliotas said that no matter what, every American should get out to vote if we are going to keep this country as a true Democracy. ■



# FIGHTING VOTER SUPPRESSION

## New Voting Restrictions in Place for 2016 Presidential Election

This year, 17 states will have new voting restrictions in place for the first time in a presidential election. These new laws range from strict photo ID requirements to early voting cutbacks to registration restrictions. The repercussions of these voting restrictions will be far reaching for years to come, and could eventually make their way into New York if something isn't done to halt these tactics of keeping certain blocks of voters away from the polls.

Voter suppression laws as they are known concern allegations about various efforts, legal and illegal, used to prevent eligible voters from their right to vote. These laws place huge burdens on eligible voters trying to exercise their basic fundamental constitutional rights. In the last eight years, many states have passed stricter measures making it more difficult for certain ethnic groups to vote, particularly African-Americans, the elderly, students and those with disabilities.

As a union representing a heavy population of those categorized as minorities, fighting voter suppression is at the top of Local 1180's list, according to President Arthur Cheliotos.

**Voter suppression laws as they are known concern allegations about various efforts, legal and illegal, used to prevent eligible voters from their right to vote.**

“We must engage in advocacy and litigation in order to stop these harmful voter suppression measures once and for all,” he said. “The stories we have heard from members regarding the difficulties they have experienced at the polling places have been eye opening.”

More than 30 states have considered laws that would require voters to present a government-issued photo ID in order to vote. Studies suggest that up to 11 percent of American citizens lack this type of identification and would be required to navigate governmental bureaucracy in order to obtain one or forego the right to vote entirely.

Most will undoubtedly choose the latter.

Since 1965, the Voting Rights Act (VRA) has protected minority voters at the polls. It knocked down the suppressive measures that had previously prevented African-Americans from voting in the South for decades.

After the VRA was passed, federal registrars were sent to the South to register voters in the area's most segregated places like Selma, AL, where only 2% of the African-American population was registered to vote at the time.

This Selma story was turned into the critically-acclaimed film of the same name, and while it was expected to garner many votes for Best Picture in 2015, ended up receiving a paltry two nominations. In addition, the Academy's 20 acting nominations went to a group with no representation from communities

of color. This situation ignited an onslaught of well-deserved criticism of the Academy and its voting process.

“It's ironic that a film depicting history about voter suppression at a time when voter suppression is surging in America did not receive more recognition,” Cheliotos said.

According to the Center for American Progress Action Fund, “...too many Republicans are in a race-to-the-bottom to further disenfranchise voters. In 2014 alone, at least 83 restrictive voting bills were introduced in 29 states. This regressive wave of voter suppression efforts targets and most affects voters in the same communities already fighting for inclusion in other aspects of life: young people, low-income families, and people of color.

“This is a movie we have seen before. Despite plot twists — such as poll taxes, literacy tests, voter ID, and contracted early voting windows — and a changing cast of characters, the script remains the same: a concerted, coordinated effort to suppress the basic right to cast a vote and have it counted. “One might say it's as though some conservatives are vying for the Academy Awards of Voter Suppression.”

Cheliotos said that in June 2013, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the coverage formula (Section 4) used for how the Justice Department enforces Section 5 of the VRA, which required jurisdictions with significant histories of voter discrimination to ‘pre-clear’ any new voting practices or procedures. In its 5-4 decision however, the Court did not strike down Section 5 itself, leaving it to Congress to devise a new coverage formula.

While that *Shelby County v. Holder* decision is now three years old, it's expected to have a huge impact at the polls for the 2016 presidential elections. State legislatures have been far more active since the *Shelby* decision, with more than 20 states, including New York, making positive changes for voters, like implementing online voter registration. But voting regulations have a long way to go.

“In some areas we have made progress, but it isn't enough. As we approach the first presidential election in 50 years without the full protections of the Voting Rights Act, we need to take further action,” Cheliotos said. “We are asking our members to be vigilant when they go to vote and immediately report anything that seems out of the ordinary. States have wasted no time implementing new voting restrictions and we must do all we can to ensure that similar-type restrictions do not make their way into New York.” ■

— By Marci Rosenblum  
Local 1180 Communications Director



# ARTHUR CHELIOTES

## President

### Sitting Out This Election Just Is NOT An Option

Our union is actively involved in politics because we understand that our members' standard of living is directly tied to the decisions elected officials make that impact our lives. In essence, those we put in office control wages, hours, working conditions, benefits and so much more.

Government also affects us in our homes and neighborhoods, the quality of our health care system, education, housing, public health and safety protections. Zoning and land use determines if we can afford to live in our neighborhoods. Politics and political power shape government policies; politics determines who will pay for government services and who will

system rigged to meet the wants of the 1%, not the needs of the 99%. So when presidential candidate Bernie Sanders proposed "Medicare for All," we paid attention. His other policy proposals also made sense — free public higher education, a more progressive tax system, and securing Social Security. Most important was the systemic change a Sanders election would have brought about — a radical restoration of democracy and participation, an end to the oligarchic power of a wealthy elite, and a new era of economic, racial, and climate justice.

Bernie Sanders went to the Democratic National Convention with 45% of the elected delegates on a campaign without big money donors. I served as a New York State representative for Bernie Sanders on the DNC Rules Committee, which established a commission that will make changes in the appointment of super delegates to reflect the votes in that state. The Sanders campaign succeeded in moving Hillary Clinton to adopt more progressive stances on issues. It's unfortunate Bernie Sanders will not be our next president.

This, of course, is all prologue to the choice we must make for president on November 8, either Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump. CWA chooses Clinton, just as Bernie did. We know we will need to work diligently to hold her accountable to her campaign's promises. But we need to elect her first.

Clinton was elected to the U.S. Senate from New York in 2000 with Working Families Party (WFP) support; she will be on the Presidential ballot in New York on the WFP line and **we must vote for her on that line.**

She has said: "As President, I'll stand with working families like I have my entire career. We'll build an economy that works for everyone, not just those at the top, and finally make the minimum wage a living wage."

At the DNC, some argued that Bernie supporters should focus

on electing down-ballot progressives and remain 'outside' in order to continue pressuring her, without endorsing her; **I strongly disagreed as there is too much at stake.** The Supreme Court appointments alone will have a great impact on our nation for generations to come. I agree with the agenda put together by the Working Families Party.

**First.** Defeat Trump and elect Clinton. This means working to mobilize every voter to come to the polls in sufficient numbers to elect Clinton.

**Second.** Elect the best down-ballot progressives. The republican stone-walling of Obama has shown us that no president alone can make the change we need! That's why we are backing candidates for Congress who will be leaders in the fight for Bernie's agenda, like New York congressional candidate Zephyr Teachout.

**Third.** Hold Clinton accountable to the promises she makes by continuing to organize in 2017. Together with allies, we aim to build a powerful coalition that can keep the pressure high on our progressive priorities.

**Fourth.** We need to recruit, train and elect the next generation of progressive leaders, and work with them to help build the political revolution.

As Dan Cantor from the WFP said, "The truth is, if she becomes President Clinton, she will only be as good as we — social movements, unions, progressive activists and organizations — make her."

But first we must elect Hillary Clinton, and that may be tougher than polls suggest. As famous documentary film producer Michael Moore pointed out, in a blue state like New York, we are living in a bubble where we and our friends are convinced the American people are not going to elect an idiot like Trump...or would they?

I am sure that if people could vote from their couch at home on their X-box or PlayStation, Hill-

ary would win in a landslide. But people need to be encouraged to get out and vote. Right now Hillary's supporters aren't enthusiastic, and you know what I'm talking about.

Voters actually have to leave the house and get in line to vote. And if they live in poor, Black or Hispanic neighborhoods, they not only have a longer line to wait in, they have to deal with everything that is being done to stop them from casting a ballot. On the other hand, Trump has the most rabid supporters. His crazed fans are going to be up at 5:00 AM on Election Day, working all day until the last polling place has closed.

Remember the Brexit vote? Like many in Britain, Americans are convinced this election is their chance to stick it to all those who wrecked their dreams. Donald Trump, the outsider, has arrived to clean house. Many may not agree with him or even like him, but this is their chance to cast a protest vote at those who stole their dreams.

Many sophisticated Trump supporters and Hillary haters cannot be underestimated. Michael Moore has referred to how they might vote as "The Jesse Ventura Effect."

He explains that we must not "discount the electorate's ability to be mischievous or underestimate how any millions fancy themselves as closet anarchists once they draw the curtain and are all alone in the voting booth. Remember back in the '90s when the people of Minnesota elected a professional wrestler as their governor? They didn't do this because they're stupid or thought that Jesse Ventura was some sort of statesman or political intellectual. They did so just because they could. Minnesota is one of the smartest states in the country. **Voting for Ventura was their version of a body slam on a sick political system.**"

We must come to terms with the fact that Hillary is unpopular.

**Healthcare profiteering is one of the many examples of a political system rigged to meet the wants of the 1%, not the needs of the 99%.**

benefit from them. Many of our members play an important role in providing government services but if those services are scaled back, our members not only lose those services they could lose their jobs.

Members' interests drive our union's political activity and help determine which candidates we support. As we all know, our political system has not been responsive to our needs. For example, healthcare is very expensive but very profitable for a few who know how to shape public policy. The result is we spend twice per capita for healthcare than Canada or Great Britain, yet lag far behind in quality and outcomes. More than 500,000 Americans file for bankruptcy yearly due to healthcare costs in our nation, something unheard of in Canada or Great Britain. The very idea that healthcare should be a profit center for corporations is irrational in a civilized society. Profiting under these circumstances is immoral and should be illegal.

Healthcare profiteering is one of the many examples of a political

# MEMBERS IN ACTION

## Puerto Rican Day Parade

A sunny Sunday in mid June brought together an estimated 100,000 participants for this year's 59th annual National Puerto Rican Day Parade that marched up Fifth Avenue in Manhattan as big crowds lined the parade route. Organizers say there were 1.5 million spectators who lined the route from 44th Street to 59th Street. Actress Rosario Dawson was the parade queen and New York Knicks star Carmelo Anthony was the parade king. The parade is traditionally held on the second Sunday in June in honor of the nearly four million inhabitants of Puerto Rico and all people of Puerto Rican birth or heritage residing in the United States. It has grown to be one of the largest parades in the City. This was the first time that the Labor Council For Latin American Advancement (LCLAA) marched in the parade behind its own banner. Charles Garcia, LCLAA Third Vice President and CWA 1180 Executive Board Member, represented the Union. Edwin Rosario, LCLAA President, and Garcia's son also marched with him. ■



## Pink for a Cause

The Local 1180 Women's Committee recently held its annual Pink & White Afternoon Brunch on August 13. The brunch was held to begin the kickoff for the American Cancer Society's "Making Strides For Breast Cancer" walk on October 16, 2016, in Central Park. Committee members pictured in front: Lisa Lloyd and Precious Foster. Standing are Bernice Selman, Dorothy Wall, Lenora Smith, Lynda Hogan, Hilary Bloomfield, Denise Gilliam, Dian Duke, Sherry Johnson-O'Neal, Beverline Parks and Jacqueline Gadsden. ■

# Annual Membership Picnic

CWA Local 1180 members, their families, and friends turned out for the Union's Annual Picnic on September 3 at the famous Holiday Hill in Cheshire, CT.

This year's picnic brought more than two dozen bus loads of fun-seekers as well as hundreds who drove themselves. The all-day event was sponsored by the Local and coordinated by Member-At-Large Hazel O. Worley.

Worley said, "this year's picnic was even more electrifying than in the past. There was a noticeable increase in the activities available to our guests. It was exciting to see our members and their families compete against one another in the family games, water games, and the dance floor. The excitement on the faces of the kids was priceless."

There was definitely something for everyone, even retirees. "Every year the picnic is getting bigger and better," Worley said. "I say this picnic can't get any larger and every year it does." Special thanks to faithful bus captains — our members and retirees — for another job well done in getting guests on the buses. Also thanks to 1180 dedicated staff members for their support in once again making this event a success. ■



Secretary-Treasurer Gloria Middleton beams with excitement seeing the faces of members and their families on the bungee jump ride and appreciates all the work 1180 staff put into making this day such an enjoyable one.



1180 new mailroom Supervisor Victor Ramos said he and his family were amazed at the number of people at the park and by the togetherness he sensed from everyone.

Bus Captains, left side from left, Virginia Johnson-Conway, Debera Tyndall, Executive Board/Staff Representative Robin Blair-Batte, President Arthur Cheliotos, Nicole Tamika Paul, Executive Board Member Deborah Paylor, retired member Ida Gardenhive, Dareese Frierson, Debbie Walker, and 1180's Member Benefit Representative staff Brenda Tate-White. Right side of photo from front to back: Quinella Williams, Helen S. Jarrett, Secretary-Treasurer Gloria Middleton, Linda Frazier, First Vice President Gina Strickland, Executive Board Member Hazel O. Worley, Retiree Benefit staff member Lynda Hogan, Bruce Smith, and Joann Richards.

Thanks also to the bus captains not pictured: Joyce Cruickshank, Tamika Paul, Marie Guery, staff member Sonja Fulcher, Regina Kelly, Nicole Sampson and Alicia Smith.



Damien Arnold, Finance Controller for CWA 1180 Benefits Funds (pictured left center), and other members and their families prepare for the famous water balloon competition.



Retired member Irene Richards' great granddaughter Raegan Jackson had so much fun, the only thing left to do was sleep.



**This picnic is a true testament to the camaraderie our members share being a part of this great Local.**

# MEMBERS IN ACTION

## Retiree 20th Anniversary Picnic Celebration

On a clear summer's day, CWA 1180 retirees gathered for their 20th Anniversary Picnic this summer. On August 24 at the Black Bear Lake Country Club in Millstone, NJ, eight bus loads of eager retirees joined the activities. Some brought their significant others, children, and grandchildren. Lots of delicious food and desserts were served all afternoon. Retirees danced to the beat of Reggae, RB&B, Salsa, and R&R — everyone was on a high. Other activities included games, bingo, arts and crafts, swimming, and basketball, all of which kept the crowd busy and energized. CWA 1180 retirees are proud of reaching their 20th year milestone of participating in exciting activities, making new friends, and learning new skills. They are lucky to be able to "Do It All! Pictured from top left: Nellie Holmes and Edith Primavera, Connie and Vinnie Imbessi. At picnic table Arlene Drayton, Diane Smith, and guests. — by Carole Silverman ■



## Leadership Conference

CWA Local 1180 members attended a CWA District 1 Leadership Conference this summer. Pictured from left are Member-at-Large Lisa Lloyd, President Arthur Cheliotos, Member-at-Large Venus Colon-Williams, New York City Councilmember Richie Torres (Bronx), and Members-at-Large Hilary Bloomfield and Charles Garcia. ■



## ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

- Condolences to Elaine Allman, former CWA 1180 Secretary-Treasurer, on the death of her sister Daisy Haynes on July 29, 2016. She was 91 years old. ■
- Congratulations to Retiree Juanita Daring (PAA II, HPD — Division of Construction) on the birth of her great grandson Jayce Amir Burress to granddaughter Aleesa Brown. ■
- Congratulations to CWA Local 1180 Members-at-Large Hilary Bloomfield and Denise Gilliam on their swearing in this summer as new delegates to the New York City Central Labor Council, an umbrella organization that represents more than 200 unions throughout the City. ■
- Condolences to Lincoln Bonner (Retired, Agency for Children's Services) on the loss of his sister Dorothy Walker. ■
- Congratulations to Leandro Monzon on receiving a Certificate of Appreciation from CWA Local 1180 for his diligent support, hard work and expertise that have contributed to making life easier for those he helps in his role as an invaluable activist, union member and member of the Hispanic Committee. ■







# GERALD BROWN

## Second Vice President

### Constitutional Referendum A Concern for Unions

Every 20 years, the people of New York State have a mandated opportunity to amend the New York State Constitution. The question of whether to amend will be put before the voters on the November 7, 2017 General Election ballot in the form of a referendum.

While many New Yorkers can tell you they have seen a referendum or proposition on at least one Election Day ballot, the majority cannot tell you what a referendum is or why it is important to understand.

A referendum is a general vote by the electorate on a single political question that has been referred to them for a direct decision.

A “yes” vote on the 2017 referendum to amend the State Constitution is extremely risky business for public employee labor

**To combat this crisis, public employee unions must educate the working poor. We must not only fight for our own pensions but to create pensions for all New Yorkers, even those who are not public employees.**

unions in this state. Our main concern is the protection for public employee pensions — currently protected by the State Constitution — that would be at risk. A “yes” vote for a Constitutional Convention would certainly put public employee pensions on the table for discussion and change as far as New York’s political leaders are concerned. After all, it’s our pensions that come under constant attack and scrutiny every time there is a budget deficit.

The devastation that could transpire for unions could be insurmountable. Workers with 30 years of pension credits with a few years to retirement could see their retirement change in the blink of an eye, or in this case, the cast of a vote. New laws and formulas for calculating pensions could be imposed. The new laws and calculations would certainly have a negative impact on pension amounts received. The new laws also could affect individuals already retired.

Voting in the affirmative to allow the Constitutional Convention could negatively change the dollar amount we all receive upon retirement. The one **sure way** to avoid this is to vote no for the Constitution Convention when it appears on the ballot.

This is going to require team work, however — a strong push by an organized labor movement that flexes its muscles and gets out the word that every single member in the labor movement must vote, and must vote “no.” There can’t be any holds barred. We must mobilize the troops early and not stop until we have succeeded. There is no rerun here. If the naysayers are stronger than the guardians of the working class, then we have lost the war.

With the current climate of resentment toward public employee pensions, we are truly in for an uphill battle in defeating the referendum. The resentment, in this case, would be generated by the likes of the Koch Brothers and their allies. Millions of dollars will find its way into campaigns for an affirmation of the Convention.

The Koch Brothers and company will start the campaign by bringing out anger from working New Yorkers who currently are without pensions. They will encourage them to vote against public employee pension on the simple fact that they themselves are not enjoying the benefits of a pension.

To combat this crisis, public employee unions must educate. We must not only fight for our own pensions but to create pensions for **all** New Yorkers, even those who are not public employees. This will be a tough fight, but one we can win. Our approach has to be carefully thought out, however.

As I see it, there can be two courses of action. First, labor could refer back to the early days of the second Bush Presidency when there was a huge attempt to privatize social security. This was a time when all of labor, along with other groups, banded together for the defeat of the privatization.

For a moment imagine if we had not defeated the measure. With the two major stock market crashes, where would the investments of social security recipients ended up? The privatization would have had a tremendous negative effect on the financial livelihood of so many for decades to come.

The second option would be to finally mobilize the 99%. Much is often said about the 1%; however, it is time for the tide to change. The conversation must change and focus on the 99% so they begin to feel empowered. We have to prove that the

99% should always be stronger than the 1% and not the other way around. When this measure is achieved, social policy change will come about in America and America would be strong again for the 99% — the true majority.

I believe America has not yet seen its best days. It would be truly amazing to set the tone for social policy change. The NYS AFL-CIO vowed at its Convention in August 2016 to make the issue of a NYS Constitutional Convention its top priority for 2017, and that the work for this goal will begin the day after the Presidential Election on November 8, 2016.

This will be a hot topic for the next year, and one that will sure to become a battle of wits. With a “no” vote, the process will end on November 8, 2017 — not to be addressed again until 20 years later in 2037. However, if there is a “yes” vote, the process begins. In November 2018, three delegates to the Convention will be elected in each New York State Senate District and 15 delegates-at-large will be elected statewide. The first Tuesday of April 2019, delegates would have their first meeting in the State Capital in Albany. Any proposed Constitution or Constitutional amendments, which are adopted by the Convention, should be submitted to a vote of the entire state of New York. Amendments that are approved will go into effect the first of January in the year following the approval.

At Local 1180 we will partner with the New York State AFL-CIO, the New York State Public Employee Conference, the New York City Council, and any other reputable organization that has the shared interest of defeating the Constitutional Convention question.

Once again, let’s be absolutely clear — a “no” vote on the question of a Constitutional Convention on November 7, 2017, must happen. Labor unions and other organizations will conduct major education programs about the issues. Get on board and do all you can to help all of labor succeed in reaching our goal of defeating the referendum for a Constitutional Convention. ■

# PUBLIC SECTOR UNIONS

“Smaller groups do better at the bargaining table when they walk side by side with larger unions that already have a presence in the labor movement and a reputation for getting members what they need and deserve.”



**Private Sector,  
Not-for-Profits  
Represented by  
Local 1180**

ASPCA

Planned Parenthood

Democracy Now!

The Nation Institute

Human Rights Watch

Human Rights First

Books and Rattles

Amnesty International USA

ALIGN

Open Society Foundations

# How They Came to Represent Private Sector Groups

**While the nature of labor unions has remained the same throughout time, the structure of them certainly has changed. Take for example the Communications Workers of America. CWA was founded in 1938 at meetings in Chicago and New Orleans. First known as the National Federation of Telephone Workers, the union became the Communications Workers of America in 1947. CWA got its start in the telephone industry, but today represents workers in all areas of communications, as well as in health care and public service, customer service and many other fields.**

As with most large international labor organizations (CWA now represents 700,000 workers in both the private and public sectors), CWA's base of membership has continued to expand. As an increasing number of smaller, independent locals and unaffiliated groups saw the strength of a powerhouse like CWA, they wanted to join forces and have the umbrella of the international over them.

A quick look back at history reveals how these transitions have come about, and how CWA Local 1180 today has come to represent nearly a dozen, small private sector groups — all of which sought out 1180 as a means of obtaining a stronger voice.

"Smaller groups do better at the bargaining table when they walk side by side with larger unions that already have a presence in the labor movement and a reputation for getting members what they need and deserve," said Local 1180 President Arthur Cheliotos.

As Cheliotos explained in a previous issue of the *Communique*, Local 1180 started off as an independent union known as the Municipal Managers Society. After public sector workers won the right to organize in the 1960s, members of the Municipal Managers voted to join the national CWA, and Local 1180 was born in 1965.

Delving back even further in time, the origins of CWA have been around since 1938 when the National Federation of Telephone Workers was formed, which then regrouped as the Communications Workers of America in 1947. CWA joined the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO), a national federation of industrial unions including the United Auto Workers, Steelworkers, and United Electrical, Radio, and Machine Workers. Although these unions initially organized in the 1930s and 40s along industrial lines, changes in the economy in the upcoming decades would change this, ultimately leading to Local 1180 joining CWA.

Whereas the American economy, especially in the Northeast and Midwest of the U.S., was predominantly based on the production and distribution of tangible goods in the first half of the 20th century, this began to change as production was moved to find cheaper sources of labor. Production was shifted first to the southern U.S. where union density, and therefore wages, was lower, and eventually was outsourced out of the country. Unions fought to keep good-paying jobs in their original locations for their members, but ultimately many huge companies moved, beginning the process of deindustrialization of what was formerly our country's center of industrial production. Rather than admit defeat, however, unions began to strategize how to keep fighting for the rights of working Americans.

As the economy changed, so too did the composition of unions. As the membership of some industrial unions began to decline, new industries began to grow, and new types of workers began to organize. No matter what industry or workplace someone works in, the desire to have a voice and protection on the job is the same. Rather than having to start from scratch like the earlier industrial unions did in the 1930s, workers in these newer industries realized they could use the existing union infrastructure to organize their own workplaces. Looking today at the membership composition of these once exclusively-industrial unions demonstrates the diversity of industries that organized in the past few decades — the UAW represents museum curators at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Steelworkers represent physicians at hospitals in Minnesota, and the United Electrical Workers represents graduate students in Iowa. In fact, CWA, in addition to still representing workers in the telecommunications industry, also has members in the public sector, news media, the airline industry, education, and healthcare.

The Municipal Managers Society affiliated with CWA in the 1960s, but that didn't stop changes in the economy and the labor movement. Whereas Local 1180 started out representing only workers from a specific industry, this too would change. Around the turn of the millennium, workers from Planned Parenthood reached out to Local 1180 expressing the desire to organize a union. Although they didn't work for the City of New York and their jobs were relatively different from that of the titles already in the union, 1180 moved forward and secured their first contract. That was the start of a new era in Local 1180 whereby today Local 1180 represents 10 different nonprofits, the most recent of which to be organized was the Open Society Foundations (OSF).

The lives of 209 Manhattan workers at OSF changed on July 21 when the group committed to justice, freedom and the rights for all became the largest foundation to organize within and lobby for cultural workplace change. The positive election outcome resulted from OSF members electing to maximize their strength for internal change. This historic vote for representation by Local 1180 means staff members can now collectively negotiate job security, educational opportunities, wages, promotions, healthcare and reap the benefits of having big brother's should to guide them through. "These individuals will now have a seat at the table to bargain with management and have a greater say in organizational decisions that affect their jobs and lives," Cheliotos said in response to the victorious event. "We look forward to having a collaborative relationship with OSF."

OSF staff chose CWA 1180 as their union because of the union's reputation for being democratically run. In addition to offices in New York and Baltimore, the Open Society Foundations has a third office in the U.S. and extended services in locations throughout the world, in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Europe, Middle East and Latin America. OSF Program Officer Karina Bentacourt said, "We want to pave the way and uplift this effort in solidarity with other workers organizing across the US and the world." They hope other foundations such as the Rockefeller and Ford foundations will be inspired and organize, too.

Organized labor combined with organized staff can further OSF's mission statement to work to build vibrant and tolerant societies whose governments are accountable and open to the participation of all people. Open Society Foundations joins other non-profits represented by Local 1180, including ASPCA, Books and Rattles, Democracy First, Amnesty International USA and others.

Union organizer Ryan Bruckenthal said that a majority of social media comments made by OSF employees expressed having limited opportunities on the job, which became one of the main reasons for seeking the protection Local 1180 offered. Their first union contract will be subjected to bargaining surveys, grievance procedures, job descriptions and expectations, titles, and levels.

The July issue of *Inside Philanthropy* quoted OSF President Christopher Stone as saying, "we believe in unions". CWA Local 1180's public agencies and non-profit organizations believe in unions, too.

"We are here as a voice for our members and as a protector of the little guy, to give them a voice where they otherwise might not have one," Cheliotos said. "OSF knew that if we stood by them, their members would reap the benefits. That's why we had success in organizing their members." ■

# CWA LOCAL 1180 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

## May 11, 2016

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m.  
Executive Board Members in Attendance

### Officers

Arthur Cheliotas, President; Gina Strickland, First Vice President; Gerald Brown, Second Vice President; Gloria Middleton, Secretary-Treasurer; Lourdes Acevedo, Recording Secretary

### Members-at-Large

Robin Blair-Batte, Hilary Bloomfield, Charles Garcia, Denise Gilliam, Lisa Lloyd, Debra Paylor, Lenora Smith, Hazel O. Worley, Venus Williams

Minutes of the March 30, 2016, meeting were presented. Motion was duly made, seconded, and carried to accept minutes with necessary corrections.

### President's Report

President Cheliotas introduced NYS Senator, 31st District, Adriano Espaillat, who is running for the Congressional seat being vacated by Charles Rangel, the 13th Congressional District of New York, in the June 28, 2016, Congressional Primary.

President Cheliotas meetings since the last Executive Board Meeting:

March 31, 2016 — Held a meeting with New York City Employee Retirement System (NYC-ERS) regarding movement of the Administrative Manager list. That evening, he met with the Black Institute regarding the EEO Case.

April 1, 2016 — Chaired a conference call with CWA Defense Fund Over-Site Committee (DFOC) regarding a variety of defense fund grants.

April 4, 2016 — Met with the Municipal Labor Steering Committee (MLC). That afternoon, he met with Larry Cohen regarding the release of Nadia Stevens to work full time in the Bernie Sanders Campaign. Later that day, he held a meeting with NuPenn regarding the development of 6 Harrison Street.

April 5, 2016 — Held a meeting with City University of New York (CUNY) Chancellor James B. Miliken regarding the establishment of the CUNY School of Labor.

April 6, 2016 — Attended the MLC general membership meeting at DC 37 headquarters. He chaired a conference call with DFOC regarding defense fund grants. Later that morning, he met with CWA Local 1180 attorney Joel Spivak to continue preparing for the upcoming Administrative Manager Arbitration hearing. That afternoon, held a meeting with Retirement Disability Attorney Stuart Salles regarding disability benefits for CWA Local 1180 members. Later that afternoon held a conference call regarding the development of 6 Harrison Street. That evening held a meeting with CWA Local 1180 members from Department of Homeless Services (DHS) and Human Resources (HRA) Commissioner Steve Banks regarding the HRA and DHS merger.

April 7, 2016 — Chaired a conference call with NuPenn regarding the development of 6 Harrison Street. Later that afternoon, attended a meeting with Bob Croghan, Len Shrier, Steve Ferrer, and Nicholas Hanlon regarding expediting the HHC Assistant and Associate Director hearings at the Office of Collective Bargaining. That evening was honored at the 11th Annual Awards Dinner for the Richmond County Democratic Club. President Cheliotas received the Harry Van Arsdale, Jr. Labor Award.

April 8, 2016 — Chaired a conference call with DFOC regarding defense fund grants.

April 11, 2016 — Chaired the MLC Civil Service Committee meeting regarding legislation on another extension of the city waiver of Long Beach Decision. Ranked lists for the scores on exams, especially education and experience exams and rule 5.3.6 that allows DCAS to have citywide promotional lists. That afternoon he held a meeting with DCAS Commissioner Lisette Camilo regarding establishing a citywide promotional list and extending the existing Administrative Manager list. That evening met with the Administrative Manager bargaining committee regarding the upcoming arbitration.

April 12, 2016 — Held a meeting with the Office of Court Administration Caucus and Chief Administrative Judge. That afternoon, held a final prep session with CWA Local 1180 attorney Joel Spivak for the upcoming Administrative Manager Arbitration hearing. That evening attended the NYC CLC Awards Reception.

April 13, 2016 — Testified in front of the arbitrator Martin F. Sheinman, Esq. at the Office of Labor Relations regarding the Administrative Manager. The arbitrator heard both sides and will rule later this year probably in the fall.

April 14, 2016 — Met with the CWA Local 1183 Board of Election President Donna G. Ellaby regarding a merger into Local 1180. Later that day met with NuPenn regarding the development of 6 Harrison Street. That evening attended the 2016 presidential debate at the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

April 15, 2016 — Chaired a conference call with DFOC regarding a variety of defense fund grants.

April 17-April 21, 2016 — Traveled to Washington in order to attend the DFOC committee meeting on various grant requests.

April 22, 2016 — Chaired a conference call with NuPenn development of 6 Harrison Street.

April 25, 2016 — Chaired a conference call with CWA Local 1180 Attorneys Mirkin & Gordon, P.C., regarding a court action filed by 6 Harrison Street condo owner Axon & Co.

April 26, 2016 — Attended the MLC Civil Service meeting at DC 37 headquarters. That afternoon chaired the weekly staff meeting.

April 27, 2016 — Held a meeting with Council Member Julissa Ferreras's Legislative Director Ivan Acosta and Chief of Staff Daniel Coates to discuss the establishment of the CUNY School of Labor. That afternoon held a recognition ceremony in honor of Administrative Professional Day. Later that day met with David Faucher and Yetta Kurland regarding the Administrative Manager EEO Case. That evening presided over the general membership meeting at Borough of Manhattan Community College BMCC. Additionally, he held a conference call with CWA Public, Health Care and Education Workers Sector Vice President Brooks Sunkett regarding the struggles with Mayor Bill de Blasio over pay equity.

April 28, 2016 — Visited the Department of Finance Commissioner in order to thank him for making an abundance of appointments of CWA Local 1180 members from the Administrative Manager List. That afternoon met with the CLC, legal firm Stroock & Stroock & Lavan, and Shelter Point regarding how we can organize family leave benefits. That evening attended Alan Goldblatt's retirement party after 43 years of city service.

April 29, 2016 — Chaired a conference call with DFOC regarding a variety of defense fund grants.

May 3, 2016 — Met with the MLC. That afternoon chaired the weekly staff meeting. Also, met with the Director of the Joseph S. Murphy Institute Greg Mantsios to discuss the progress of the development of the CUNY School of Labor.

May 4, 2016 — Conducted the CWA Local 1180 Board of Trustees Meeting discussing numerous issues.

May 5, 2016 — Attended an initial meeting of the MLC Committee at City Hall on the transformation of Health and Hospitals to discuss the pressing challenges facing our vital public healthcare system.

May 6, 2016 — Conducted a conference call regarding the 6 Harrison Street project update. That afternoon attended a meeting with New York State Assembly Member Peter J. Abbate, Jr. and New York State Senator Diane J. Savino to discuss legislation regarding the Long Beach decision. Additionally, they discussed creating programs to be put in place that will not allow provisional employees to grow over time. That evening attended the New York City Labor Council for Latin American Advancement 12th Annual Labor Celebration.

May 9, 2016 — Met with Council Members Ydannis Rodriguez, David G. Greenfield, and Antonio Reynoso regarding funding for the Murphy Institute and the new CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies that will help ensure the City will be a better place for workers and working-class communities.

May 10, 2016 — Met with CWA Local 1180 attorney Joel Spivak.

President Cheliotas distributed and discussed the status report, dated April 1, 2016, from our Attorneys Mirkin & Gordon, P.C., listing legal matters they are working on for Local 1180. In addition, he presented the April 2016 organizing report, prepared by Stephen M. Ferrer. Lastly, he presented and discussed the Policy Research Group's Briefing Report on contract expiration dates of Major NYC and NYS Public Employee Groups and the NYC Economy.

A motion was duly made, seconded and carried to accept the President's Report.

### First Vice President's Report

First Vice President Gina Strickland reported the following:

First Vice President Gina Strickland reported the following Staff Representative activity for the month April 2016:

Activity	April
Agency Walk-Through	2
Counseling/Warning Sessions	2
EEO Investigation/Interview	2
G.O. 15 NYPD	5
Hearing Preparations	5
Hearings	16
Investigative Hearings	6
Labor Management Meetings	4
Off-Site Member Meetings	2
Supervisory Conferences	3
Site Member Meetings	9
Walk-Ins	2
Appointments	8
Telephone calls received	629

### Site Meetings for April 2016

- HRA-MISCA  
505 Clermont Avenue, Brooklyn
- HRA-MISCA Fair Hearings  
111 Livingston Street, Brooklyn
- New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA)  
23-02 49th Avenue, LIC Queens
- HRA-MISCA  
260 11th Avenue, Manhattan
- HHC-North Central Bronx Hospital  
3424 Kossuth Avenue, Bronx
- NYC Fire Department (FDNY)  
9 Metro Tech Center, Brooklyn
- HHC Jacobi Hospital  
1400 Pelham Parkway South, Bronx
- NYC Department of Buildings  
280 Broadway, Manhattan
- NYC Department of Finance  
144-06 94th Avenue, Queens
- NYC Department of Finance  
345 Adams Street, Brooklyn
- NYCERS  
345 Adams Street, Brooklyn
- NYC Department of Education  
333 7th Avenue, Manhattan
- Taxi and Limousine Commission  
31-00 47th Avenue, LIC Queens
- Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings (OATH)  
100 Church Street, Manhattan
- HRA-SNAP #79  
219 Beach 59th Street, Queens
- HRA-Investigation,  
Revenue and Enforcement Agency  
250 Livingston Street, Brooklyn
- HHC Lincoln Hospital  
234 149th Street, Bronx
- HHC Cumberland Hospital  
100 North Portland Avenue, Brooklyn

DOHMH-Vital Records  
125 Worth Street, Manhattan

HRA-Brownsville #73  
94 Flatbush Avenue, Brooklyn

HRA-SNAP #14  
132 W. 125th Street, Manhattan

DOHMH-Family and Child Health  
16 Court Street, Brooklyn

DCAS  
210 Joralemon Street, Brooklyn

Motion was duly made, seconded and carried to accept the First Vice President's Report.

### Second Vice President's Report

Second Vice President Gerald Brown reported the following:

Advised that today is day 28 of the Verizon Wireless Workers Strike and solidarity is needed more than ever to support our striking Brothers and Sisters.

CWA Local 1180's endorsed candidate for the April 19th Presidential Primary in NYS Bernie Sanders did not win. However, he had an excellent showing in the state. In addition, there was a special election on April 19th. Our endorsed candidate Todd Kaminsky won the NYS Senate seat in the 9th District. This seat was vacated by convicted NYS Senator Dean Skelos. This seat is in Nassau County and with the election of Todd Kaminsky, the seat went from Republican to Democratic. This is a very big win for Democrats in New York State.

We are preparing for the June 28th Congressional Primary in NYS. Currently, there are only a few contested races for June 28th. To date, Local 1180 has endorsed Jon Kayman for the 3rd Congressional District in Long Island. This seat is being vacated by retiring Congressman Steve Israel. Local 1180 interviews are underway for the 13th Congressional District of NYS. This seat is being vacated by retiring Congressman Charles B. Rangel. The Executive Board has already interviewed Adam Clayton Powell IV and NYS Senator Adriano Espaillat. There is a scheduled interview with Assemblyman Keith Wright. After the Wright interview, an endorsement decision will be made.

After the Congressional Primary on June 28th, we have two additional election days:

- September 13th, NYS Primary
- November 8th, General Election ("The Big One").

On April 11th, the MLC's Civil Service Committee met in the morning at Local 1180. The top two agenda items were:

- NYC's compliance with the Long Beach decision in reference to Provisional Employees.
- The growing problem of NYC Agencies continuously creating boutique titles. These are titles that are only unique in a particular agency. It is felt that there are already established titles in place and there is no need for the creation of boutique titles and in many cases, the titles are non-competitive.

Later in the afternoon of April 11th, Second Vice President Brown, along with President Cheliotas and First Vice President Strickland, attended a meeting with DCAS Commissioner Lisette Camilo and key members of her staff. At the meeting, Commissioner Camilo advised that the April 30th exam for Computer Associate Technical Support will be postponed. The postponement follows the rationale for postponing three other computer-based exams a month earlier in March 2016. It was decided that the notifications for the exams did not mimic the job specs for the title. It shall be noted that Commissioner Camilo is newly appointed to the position and the exam notifications were issued by the prior DCAS Administration.

Commissioner Camilo also addressed the issue of complaints revolving around the June 13, 2015, exam for Administrative Manager. She stated that the 300 complaint surveys, which Vice President Brown forwarded to DCAS, were very well written. She also was delighted that

the complaints mentioned solutions that should be taken. She further stated some of the solutions have been put in place. She concluded the discussion by advising that DCAS needs additional time to address the issues of the June 13th exam.

On April 14, Second Vice President Brown attended a hiring pool at HRA for Administrative Manager. Five positions were offered at the pool and all were filled.

On May 4, Second Vice President Brown attended a reception in support of NYC Public Advocate Letitia "Tish" James. He took the opportunity to open a discussion with Public Advocate James on two important issues that President Cheliotos will follow up on.

On May 6, Brown represented President Cheliotos at HRA's Employee Recognition Ceremony for staff with 25 and 30 years of service. Second Vice President Brown was well received by the audience of more than 500.

#### Seminars

Second Vice President Brown advised that on Saturday, May 14, Local 1180 will sponsor a Home Ownership Seminar. This is a must attend for anyone thinking about owning a home, condo, or co-op. There also will be a lawyer in attendance to answer all legal questions and to give an overview of home ownership.

This year the Home Ownership Seminar will be repeated in September and December.

We are currently redefining other seminars to make them of interest to the membership, mainly the Pre-Retirement and Financial Management Seminars.

#### Exam Prep Courses

Second Vice President Brown awaits stats from Answers Inc., the company that administered the Exam Prep Courses for the scheduled Computer Associate Technical Support exam. Once he receives the stats, he will assemble a report for the minutes similar to that done by Linda Jenkins.

#### Work Place Literacy Courses (WPL)

WPL Courses scheduled for September 2016–June 2017 will soon be available for members to register. Attendance during the last few years has dropped. When Second Vice President Brown receives attendance reports from Answers Inc., he will appropriately analyze and institute solutions to improve attendance. There also will be an evaluation of course content. Our overall goal is to put out products that will be of interest to the membership and at the same time cost effective to the Education Fund of Local 1180.

#### Murphy Institute

Plans are fully underway for CUNY to make the Murphy Institute its own School of Labor. Currently, the Murphy Institute is under CUNY's School of Professional Studies (SPS) and is governed by rules and regulations for SPS.

Vice President Brown continues to administer our program with the Murphy Institute at the SPS and at Queens College.

#### Civil Service List Update

Update of the 51 Administrative Manager Promotional lists (#6529) Expiration Date: July 29, 2016.

#### Agencies with viable Administrative Manager Promotional Lists:

Last number appointed and number of eligibles on list.

Agency	Highest # Appointed	# of Eligibles on List
ACS	14	165
*DA-NY	0	4
DEP	31	100
*DFTA	0	13
DHS	12	33
DOE	29	80
DOHMH	49	129
FINANCE	108	135
*NYCERS	0	10
NYCHA	76	112
NYPD	22	141
OPA	6	9
*PROBATION	0	13

Agency	Highest # Appointed	# of Eligibles on List
HPD	67	70
HRA	142	662
*LAW	0	10

#### Agencies where lists are exhausted

Buildings	Business Services
CCRB	Comptrollers
Consumers Affairs	Correction
DA-Bronx	DA-Kings
DA-Queens	DCAS
DDC	DJJ
DOI	DOITT
DOT	DYCD
FIRE	FISA
NYCTA	Parks
Police Pension Fund	Sanitation
TLC	TRS

#### Agencies that never had a viable list (less than three eligibles)

Actuary	Business Integrity
CCHR	City Clerk
City Planning	DORIS
Landmarks Preservation	OLR
OMB	Tax Commission
TBTA	

#### Agencies from Section III that have appointed from lists with less than three eligibles.

CCHR: Appointed #1 (one on list)  
 City Planning: Appointed # 1, 2 (two on list)  
 OMB: Appointed # 2 (two on list)  
 Tax Commission: Appointed #1 (one on list)

\*Agencies that have not appointed anyone from their list.

#### Updates to PAA Promotional Lists and PAA Open Competitive List:

Agencies with viable PAA Promotional Lists (#8535) Expiration date: February 23, 2017

Last number appointed and number of eligibles on list.

Agency	Highest # Appointed	# of Eligibles on List
*DA-Bronx	0	3
FIRE	34	36
HRA	879	892
*LAW	0	35
NYPD	198	327
NYCHA	26	144

PAA Open Competitive List (#8068)  
 Expiration Date: July 6, 2016

Highest # Appointed: 2505  
 # of Eligibles on List: 5211

\* Agencies that have not appointed anyone from their list.

Motion was duly made, seconded, and carried to accept the Second Vice President's Report.

#### Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Secretary-Treasurer Gloria Middleton presented the Transaction Detail report for April 2016, as well as the Check Register. She advised that the T.D. checking account has a balance of \$1,108,187.18 as of C.O.B. May 10, 2016.

April 18, 2016 — President Cheliotos, Secretary-Treasurer Gloria Middleton, Executive Board Member's Hazel Worley and Debra Paylor, staff representative Olivia Lyde and 16 CWA Local 1180 members marched in front of the Supreme Court in Washington DC. Arrests were witnessed; thankfully none of our members were arrested.

May 31, 2016 — The CWA Local 1180 monthly membership meeting held at the United Federation of Teachers (UFT).

June 1, 2016 — The Disability Committee will host a retirement recognition honoring Alan Goldblatt's retirement after 43 years of city service.

Executive Board Member's Hilary Bloomfield and Hazel Worley have been selected to attend the 2016-2017 New York State AFL-CIO Cornell Union Leadership Institute.

CWA District One Leadership Conference will be held July 18-20, 2016.

Human Rights and Equity Conference will be held August 21, 2016–August 24, 2016 in Atlanta, Georgia. Two members from the Civil Rights and Equity Committee, and two members from the Women's Committee, will attend.

Motion was duly made, seconded, and carried to accept the Secretary-Treasurer's Report.

Members-at-Large Lisa Lloyd and Lenora Smith attended the U.S. Against the War Conference on March 14, 2016. They have requested that the Board make a donation. Additionally, they reported that Dr. Perry Franco, a cardiologist affiliated with Long Island Jewish, made a presentation to the Labor Council for Latin Advancement (LCLAA), and would like to invite Dr. Perry Franco to make a presentation in front of the board.

Member-at-Large Charles Garcia presented the Board with the Labor Note Jump-start your union check sheet for training, organizing, educational program or material. Additionally, he donated a book, "Secrets of A Successful Organizer," by Alexandra Bradbury, Mark Brenner & Jane Slaughter, to CWA Local 1180. He advised that the New York Union Semester Hybrid Academic and Internship's Fall Semester for students interested in activism and social Justice will take place from (Aug 22–Dec 2016). Lastly, he requested to attend the LCLAA 21st National Convention in Orlando, Florida. Motion was duly made, seconded, and carried to send two members to the Convention.

On April 5, Member-at-Large Debra Paylor attended and joined the LCLAA. On April 16 she joined the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU) New York Chapter. On April 21, she was sworn in as a delegate to the CLC by Chair Janella T. Hynes.

Member-at-Large Venus Colon-Williams requested the purchase of T-shirts for our members to march in the upcoming 59th Annual Puerto Rican Day Parade. Motion was duly made, seconded, and carried to purchase the t-shirts.

Member-at-Large Denise Gilliam has been selected to serve on the Executive Board of the Coalition of Union Women (CLUW).

Member-at-Large Hazel Worley advised that the Prom Drive dresses were donated to the Cinderella Project Organization and they were very grateful for the donation.

The next Executive Board Meeting is scheduled for June 22, 2016.

Motion was duly made, seconded, and carried to adjourn at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lourdes Acevedo  
 Recording Secretary

## June 22, 2016

Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m.  
 Executive Board Members in Attendance

#### Officers

Arthur Cheliotos, President; Gina Strickland, First Vice President; Gerald Brown, Second Vice President; Gloria Middleton, Secretary-Treasurer; Lourdes Acevedo, Recording Secretary

#### Members-at-Large

Robin Blair-Batte, Hilary Bloomfield, Charles Garcia, Denise Gilliam, Lisa Lloyd, Debra Paylor, Lenora Smith, Hazel O. Worley, Venus Williams

Minutes of the May 11, 2016, meeting were presented. Motion was duly made, seconded, and carried to accept minutes with necessary corrections.

#### President's Report

President Cheliotos introduced Assemblyman Keith L.T. Wright of the 70th Assembly District who is running for the Congressional seat being vacated by Charles Rangel, the 13th Congressional District of New York, in the June 28, 2016, Congressional Primary. Motion was duly made, seconded, and carried to endorse Assembly-

man Keith L.T. Wright. CWA Local 1180 will ask CWA District 1 to make a contribution to the campaign.

President Cheliotos' meetings since the last Executive Board Meeting:

May 12, 2016 — Held a meeting with Vinny Alvarez, President New York City Central Labor Council, regarding the establishment of the CUNY School of Labor. Later that day, attended the NYC Department of Finance Employee Recognition Ceremony at DC 37 Headquarters. That afternoon, met with Salvatore Russo, Senior Vice President and General Counsel of H+H, regarding issues that CWA Local 1180 members are experiencing at H+H. Later that afternoon, met with Diane C. Richardson, Assembly Member of the 43rd District in Brooklyn, regarding the upcoming election. That was followed by a meeting with the Municipal Labor Steering Committee (MLC). He concluded his day by attended a reception for the Honorable Carl E. Heastie.

May 13, 2016 — Chaired a conference call with CWA Defense Fund Over-Site Committee (DFOC) regarding Human Rights Campaign.

May 16, 2016 — Met with Council Members Mark Levine (7th District Office in Northern Manhattan), Daneek Miller (27th District in Queens), and Daniel R. Garodnick (4th District in the Upper East Side) regarding the Murphy Institute. That evening he held a meeting with Joe DeBono regarding investments.

May 17, 2016 — Met with Helen Rosenthal, Council Member of the 6th District of the Upper West Side and Brooks Sunkett, Vice-President of the CWA Public, Health Care and Education Workers Section, regarding the Murphy Institute.

May 18, 2016 — Made follow-up calls on the Murphy Scholarship. Later that morning, met with Doug McCabe regarding the Drupal program. That afternoon, held a meeting with Nu-Penn regarding the development of 6 Harrison Street.

May 19, 2016 — Attended the Central Labor Council Executive Board meeting discussing various issues. That afternoon, held a conference call with CWA President Chris Shelton and Secretary-Treasurer Sara Steffen regarding the CWA Verizon Strike. That evening he attended the memorial service for Margaret Spradley, Gloria Middleton's sister.

May 20, 2016 — Attended the City Council Higher Education Committee hearing on CUNY Budget and the Murphy Institute at the City Council Chambers. That afternoon, chaired a conference call with DFOC regarding defense fund grants. That evening, attended the Greek Parliamentarian event.

May 23, 2016 — Made follow-up calls on the Murphy Scholarship. Later that morning, attended the Office of Court Administration Coalition meeting at 125 Barclay Street. That evening, met with Council Member Daneek Miller regarding the Murphy Institute.

May 24, 2016 — Met with Stephen Levin, Council Member of the District 33 in Brooklyn Heights, regarding the Murphy Institute.

May 25, 2016 — Held a conference call with Arbitrator Martin F. Scheinman, Esq. in reference to the impasse for the appropriate minimum and maximum salaries for the CWA Local 1180 Administrative Manager title. Later that morning, held a Trustee's Meeting regarding the development of 6 Harrison Street. That afternoon, held a conference call with Scott M. Stringer, NYC Comptroller, regarding the Murphy Institute. That evening, held a meeting with Helen Jarrett regarding her work in Brooklyn.

May 26, 2016 — Attended the retiree's luncheon. He returned to the office and prepared for the Murphy Awards Ceremony. That evening, President Cheliotos attended the Murphy Institute Scholarship Awards and Fund raiser.

May 27, 2016 — Chaired a conference call with DFOC regarding a variety of defense fund grants.

May 31, 2016 — Held a conference call with Mrs. Mariela Salazar, Chief of Staff to Council

# CWA LOCAL 1180 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Member Annabel Palma of District 18, who services Parkchester, Soundview, and Castle Hill in the Bronx, regarding the Murphy Institute. That afternoon, attended the H+H meeting regarding the Labor Sub-Committee at DC 37 Headquarters.

June 1, 2016 — Attended the Demos Annual Gala.

June 2, 2016 — Met with the Municipal Labor Steering Committee (MLC). Later that day, attended the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) Annual Employee Recognition Ceremony. That evening, attended a real estate meeting at the Central Labor Council (CLC) regarding creating a House of Labor.

June 6, 2016 — Held an emergency mobilization meeting on the City Budget and set a lobby day to lobby the City Council for funding on behalf of the Murphy Institute.

June 7, 2016 — Attended the MLC general membership meeting at DC 37 Headquarters. That afternoon, held a meeting with Kevin Gallagher regarding the development of 6 Harrison Street.

June 8, 2016 — Lobbied Council Members on the steps of City Hall requesting funding for the Murphy Institute.

June 12, 2016 — Flew to Washington D.C. to prepare for the District 1 Legislative Presidents' meeting. Received and reviewed the DFOC reports.

June 13-14, 2016 — Attended the Legislative Political Conference. The two major issues discussed were the continued opposition to the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and building support for "Take on Wall Street" campaign regarding tax fairness and reigning in the power of Wall Street, specifically asking Members of Congress to close two egregious tax loopholes that benefit corporate CEOs and their outrageous salaries and the ability of hedge fund managers to pay a lower tax rate than working people.

June 15, 2016 — Held a conference call with M. Ndigo, Washington Director of Legislation/CUNY Liaison Office of Council Member Inez Barron, regarding the Murphy Institute Proposal.

June 16, 2016 — Attended the HANAC Board of Directors meeting regarding Affordable Housing for Seniors.

June 17, 2016 — Held a conference call with Myra Bell, General Counsel/Negotiator for the Office of Labor Relations, requesting dates for the CWA Local 1180 PAA Bargaining et al. That afternoon, chaired a conference call with DFOC regarding a variety of defense fund grants.

June 20, 2016 — Held a meeting with CWA Local 1180's Fund Administrator Dwight Kearns and Kevin Gallagher regarding the development of 6 Harrison Street. That afternoon, attended a luncheon for Pete Sikora. That evening, attended the Working Families Party NYC Regional Advisory Council.

June 22, 2016 — Chaired the CWA Local 1180 monthly Executive Board meeting. President Cheliotis requested authorization for travel, lodging, and meals to attend the upcoming Democratic National Convention where he is on the Rules Committee. The expenses will be reimbursed to the Local by the National CWA. Motion was duly made, seconded, and carried to accept President Cheliotis' request.

President Cheliotis distributed and discussed the status report, dated April 1, 2016, from our Attorneys Mirkin & Gordon, P.C., listing legal matters they are working on for Local 1180. In addition, he presented the April 2016 organizing report, prepared by Stephen M. Ferrer. Lastly, he presented and discussed the Policy Research Group's Briefing Report on contract expiration dates of Major NYC and NYS public employee groups and the NYC Economy.

A motion was duly made, seconded, and carried to accept the President's Report.

## First Vice President's Report

First Vice President Gina Strickland reported the following:

May 12, 2016 — Attended the NYC Department of Finance Employee Recognition hosted by Executive Board Member Hilary Bloomfield.

May 16, 2016 — Attended the NYCHA Labor Relations meeting with Staff Representative Robin Blair. Nine CWA Local 1180 members will be redeployed to better service the homeless. Later that day, Staff Representative Blair attended the hiring pool for our members.

May 19, 2016 — Attended the MLC with all agency heads regarding the pre-Zika Virus meeting.

May 20, 2016 — Attended the City Hall Budget Hearing for the Murphy Institute.

May 25, 2016 — Attended the Board of Trustees Meeting.

May 26, 2016 — Attended the retired members' club luncheon.

June 2, 2016 — Represented CWA Local 1180 at the World Trade Center with Commissioner Banks, HRA, and Department of Social Services. The agencies are starting to integrate the payroll system into one agency.

June 4, 2016 — The Civil Service Committee sponsored the Civil Service Seminar. Thirty-eight CWA Local 1180 members were in attendance. Two fact sheets, 11 disciplinary, and 12 conflict of interest sheets, were presented. Seventeen new members joined the Committee.

June 7, 2016 — Attended H+H with Teamsters 237 and Local 1199 to sign a memorandum of understanding with Sedesco Dietary in Brooklyn. \$150,000 per year educational funds can be used by our members for the different training programs.

June 9, 2016 — Attended City Hall lobbying for the Murphy Institute. Later that evening, chaired the Civil Service Committee meeting.

June 12, 2016 — Met with Kevin Lynch regarding the ASPCA contract negotiations. They voted to strike if negotiations did not progress.

June 14-15, 2016 — Attended the CWA Legislative Conference.

June 20, 2016 — Began contract negotiations with the Unified Court System.

June 22, 2016 — Attended a meeting with OLR, H+H, and other unions to work out ways to raise \$554 million by 2020 to avoid layoffs.

First Vice President Gina Strickland reported the following staff representative activity for the month of May 2016:

Activity	May
Agency Walk-Through	5
Counseling/Warning Sessions	1
EEO Investigation/Interview	1
G.O. 15 NYPD	7
Hearing Preparations	8
Hearings	19
Investigative Hearings	3
Labor Management Meetings	7
OATH	1
Off-Site Member Meetings	5
Supervisory Conferences	5
Site Member Meetings	10
Walk-Ins	10
Appointments	8
Telephone calls received	661

## Site Meetings for May 2016

Housing Preservation and Development (HPD)  
516 Bergen Street, Brooklyn

HPD  
120-55 Queens Boulevard, Queens

H + H Gouverneur  
227 Madison Street, Manhattan

Planned Parenthood  
26 Bleecker Street, Manhattan

HRA MISCA  
115 Chrystie Street, Manhattan

Dept. of Youth & Community Development  
161 Williams Street, Manhattan

Department of Transportation (DOT) 120-55  
Queens Boulevard, Queens

Department of Information & Technology  
(DOITT)  
59 Maiden Lane, Manhattan

Police Department (NYPD)  
1 Police Plaza, NYPD

NYPD  
11 Metro Tech, Brooklyn

Motion was duly made, seconded, and carried to accept the First Vice President's Report.

## Second Vice President's Report

Second Vice President Gerald Brown reported the following:

Abigail Johnson, CWA Local 1180 member, was appointed to the Test Validation Board by DCAS for the 2015 Administrative Manager Exam. Abigail advised that the work of the (TVB) for the exam is complete. This is an early indication that the lists for the exam will be published in the not-so-distant future. On behalf of Local 1180, we thank Abigail Johnson for her service on the Test Validation Board.

There are three important election days remaining in NYS for 2016: Congressional Primary on June 28, Primary on September 13, and the most important of all — the General Election on November 8.

CWA Local 1180's Work Place Literacy Program has announced its course offerings for Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 semesters. The list of courses with registration information can be found on our website at [www.cwa1180.org](http://www.cwa1180.org)

The Home Ownership Workshop on May 14 was a great success. Facilitators from Wells Fargo covered every aspect of Home Ownership. The attorney from Mirkin and Gordon handled all legal questions involving home ownership. The workshops' participants gained a wealth of knowledge and asked very important questions during the session.

CWA Local 1180 was successful in helping the Murphy Institute obtain a very sizable grant from the NYC Council. This year's grant totaled \$300,000. We thank everyone who participated in making this possible.

CWA Local 1180 has renewed its commitment in attending the NYC Civil Service Merit Council meetings. We intend to increase our participation when the monthly meetings convene in September 2016.

A complete listing of the Local's 2016 endorsements for the New York State Legislature (Assembly and Senate), in addition to that for the New York City Council Special Election, can be found on the CWA 1180 website.

The New York City Central Labor Council's Labor Day Parade will be on Saturday, September 10, 2016. Complete details to follow.

Motion was duly made, seconded, and carried to accept the Second Vice President's Report.

## Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Secretary-Treasurer Gloria Middleton presented the Transaction Detail report for May 2016, as well as the Check Register. She advised that the T.D. checking account has a balance of \$1,284,425.77 as of C.O.B. June 21, 2016.

CWA Local 1180 obtained 68 new members since the last report from the Secretary-Treasurer.

Ms. Middleton attended the Political Legislative Conference from June 13-15, 2016, in Washington D.C.

Secretary-Treasurer Middleton advised she is working with the National CWA on an ad-hoc Committee to implement a new dues structure.

Motion was duly made, seconded, and carried to accept the Secretary-Treasurer's Report. Member-at-Large Venus Colon-Williams reported that more than 100 CWA Local 1180 members marched in the 59th Annual Puerto Rican Day Parade. The new members who marched in this year's parade complimented the Local for a job well done and are looking forward to marching again next year.

Member-at-Large Denise Gilliam has been elected the official Chair of the CWA Local 1180 Women's Committee.

Member-at-Large Hazel O. Worley advised that the CWA Local 1180 Annual Picnic tickets go on sale July 11, 2016. Adults will be \$40 and children \$25.

Member-at-Large Hilary Bloomfield attended the North Eastern Bronx Democratic Club Meeting with NYS Comptroller Tom DiNapoli on Saturday, June 4, 2016. Additionally, she attended the Caribbean Heritage celebration, accompanied by Helen S. Jarred and Maudy Abdul, hosted by NYS Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli at the Brooklyn Law School on June 14, 2016.

Member-at-Large Denise Gilliam asked the Board's approval for purchasing T-shirts for Women's Committee members to wear for the Health and Wellness Fair on the first Saturday in October. She also requested the Board's approval to purchase T-shirts for the Making Strides for Breast Cancer Walk. She will reach out to the vendor for prices.

The next Executive Board Meeting is scheduled for July 19, 2016.

Motion was duly made, seconded and carried to adjourn at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lourdes Acevedo  
Recording Secretary

## 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund Update

The James Zadroga 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund and subsequent Reauthorization Act were enacted to provide a mechanism to compensate those who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, or those involved with the rescue and clean-up efforts that occurred from that date until May of the following year.

According to the new rules, the deadline to register for claims related to traumatic injuries, cancers, or pulmonary disease under the VCF is no later than December 18, 2020 as long as the verification that the illness was related to 9/11 occurred after October 4, 2011. For particular types of illnesses and/or 911 related deaths, there may be earlier deadlines.

Eligible claimants, as defined by the Act, are limited to individuals present at a 9/11 crash site at the time of or in the immediate aftermath of the terrorist-related aircraft crashes and who suffered physical harm as a direct result of the crashes or the rescue and recovery efforts or debris removal; personal representatives of deceased individuals on board American Airlines flights 11 and 77 or United Airlines flights 93 and 175; and personal representatives of individuals who were present at a 9/11 crash site at the time of, or in the immediate aftermath of, the crashes and who died as a direct result of the attacks or the debris removal.

# IN MEMORIAM

NAME	AGENCY	DECEASED
Melvyn Arroyo	Law Department	4/21/2016
Linda Barbarino	Fire Department	4/2/2016
Mary Brady	Dept. of Education	7/4/2016
Esther Brown	Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene	6/20/2016
Francine Bruno	Dept. of Sanitation	6/23/2016
Barbara Cassar	Dept. of Education	7/23/2016
Laura Chestnut	Dept. of City Planning	3/2/2016
Richard Concessi	Dept. of Sanitation	4/10/2016
Mary Cozzocrea	Parks & Recreation	8/5/2016
Ernestine David	Dept. of Social Services	5/25/2016
Delois Eason	Dept. of Education	5/12/2016
Dolores Fiore	Dept. of Probation	5/25/2016
Robert Fiorillo	Dept. of Social Services	6/8/2016
Mona Flanzraich	Dept. of Environmental Protection	4/8/2016
Carlos Gonzalez	Brooklyn Borough President	5/2/2016
Gerard Harrigan	McKinney Nursing & Rehabilitation Ctr.	6/7/2016
Mae Henderson	Dept. of Social Services	4/24/2016
Kalavati Joshi	Metropolitan Hospital Center	6/13/2016
Steven Kirsch	Dept. of Sanitation	7/6/2016
Belle Lacher Miller	Dept. of Transportation	3/18/2016
Sarah Lewis	Department of Education	5/5/2016
Shawnya Little-Shamsideen	Dept. of Social Services	3/13/2016
Sandra Marrow-Tyson	Jacobi Medical Center	7/17/2016
Floyd Martin	Dept. of Social Services	6/30/2016
Audrey Montgomery	Dept. of Probation	4/26/2016
Essie Nicholls	Dept. of Environmental Protection	7/30/2016
Burnetta Nimons	Dept. of Social Services	5/2/2016
Lillie Parker	Dept. of Homeless Services	3/5/2016
Jose Rivera	Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene	4/14/2016
Dorothy Robinson	Dept. of Environmental Protection	8/17/2016
Luz Santos	Design & Construction	5/29/2016
Elizabeth Sharpe	Dept. of Transportation	4/21/2016
Margaret Sosnowski	Dept. of Education	4/28/2016
Sarah Spataro	Dept. of Education	4/15/2016
Elsie Stoddard	Dept. of Social Services	5/20/2016
Elizabeth Taylor	Harlem Hospital Center	3/30/2016
Carol Tierney	Finance Administration	4/15/2016
Patricia Turner	Dept. of Social Services	7/23/2016
Emma Walker	Dept. of Social Services	4/22/2016
Annette Wallace	Housing Preservation & Development	4/8/2016
Esther Wallach	Police Department	8/1/2016
Shellyann Wheeler	Dept. of Buildings	4/22/2016
Elaine Wilensky	Dept. of Education	3/24/2016
Denise Williams	Police Department	4/20/2016
Leona Williams	Dept. of Social Services	5/13/2016
Vanessa Williams-Kellerman	Dept. of Health & Mental Hygiene	6/6/2016
Edythe Zaretsky	Dept. of General Services	4/30/2016

# COMMUNIQUE

## Official Publication

New York Administrative Employees Local 1180  
 Communications Workers of America, AFL-CIO  
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 Retiree Division: 212.226.5800

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 Gina Strickland, First Vice President  
 Gerald Brown, Second Vice President  
 Gloria Middleton, Secretary-Treasurer  
 Lourdes Acevedo, Recording Secretary

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## ARTHUR CHELIOTES President

### Sitting Out This Election Just Is NOT An Option

Continued from page 5

Many voters think she is untrustworthy and dishonest. She represents the old way of politics, not really believing in anything other than what can get you elected. Young women are among her biggest detractors. While most Bernie backers will drag themselves to the polls on November 8 to reluctantly vote for Hillary, they will not bring five people to vote with them. They will not volunteer 10 hours in the month leading up to the election. They do not talk in an excited voice when asked why they are voting for Hillary. **This election is going to come down to just one thing — who drags the most people out of the house and gets them to the polls.**

**We must overcome this lack of enthusiasm!** We must work hard to mobilize our members, their families and neighbors. We must be prepared to go to battle as we did for Obama to get Hillary Clinton elected. We know this election is not the time to act out on our frustrations.

This election is an opportunity to affirm our conviction in the never-ending struggle for economic, political and social justice for our nation.

We need every member and retiree to join in this struggle. There is a clear choice. ■

A claimant can file a claim online through a form on the VCF website at [www.claims.vcf.gov](http://www.claims.vcf.gov) and follow the instructions in the document checklist, which can be found at [www.vcf.gov/pdf/VCFClaimForm-DocumentsChecklist.pdf](http://www.vcf.gov/pdf/VCFClaimForm-DocumentsChecklist.pdf).

Attorneys at Mirkin & Gordon, through the Union's legal services program, are available to assist CWA 1180 members who feel they might have a valid claim.

For more detailed information, visit the CWA Local 1180 benefits section of the website at [www.cwa1180.org](http://www.cwa1180.org)

**Communications Workers  
of America, Local 1180**

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# ELECTION DAY MISHAPS & WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT VOTING

By Sheila Boyd

**The late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said that “a voteless people is a powerless people.” When we vote, we are telling elected officials and lawmakers how we feel about public safety, social security, health care, education and other important issues. Voting is a chance to make a difference in our own lives and the world.**

But what happens when something goes wrong at the polls when you go to vote? It's not like mishaps haven't occurred before. Those of us old enough to remember the Gore vs. Bush Florida hanging chads debacle that forced the Supreme Court to resolve the dispute before a winner could officially be declared, can attest to this. And more recently, earlier this year the Brooklyn Board of Elections revealed that it had purged more than 100,000 voters from the polls shortly before a major primary election. There were also reports of ballot shortages and polling places not open.

One of the reasons for so much chaos and confusion exists in this state is that by the end of this year, New Yorkers will have gone to the polls four times between the Presidential primary, and primaries for Congress, the State Legislature and local races, and the general election. “The very fact that our voting system is so disorganized as to have four separate elections within a seven-month period speaks loudly about the inefficiency and potential for fraud,” said one political observer.

What do voters do if they get to the polls and their names are missing from the registration books. It could just be as simple as signing in at the wrong table so check with the information clerk at your polling place who will look up your address and give you the correct ED/AD table to vote at. Other reasons your name might be missing from the books are that you haven't voted in the last four years, you had a change of address or a name change, or you changed your party affiliation. Your name also could be missing from the sign-in books simply due to Board of Elections error.

If you are told you cannot vote on Election Day for any one of a number of different reasons, **you need to request an affidavit ballot.**

In 2002, Congress attempted to make voting simpler and more accessible through the Help America Vote Act. Part of this law requires affidavit ballots, also known as provisional ballots, when voters believe they are eligible to vote but cannot submit a regular ballot at the polls on Election Day.

Election officials will attempt to verify your eligibility. If they are able to do so, your affidavit vote will be counted like the regular ballots. On the ballots, voters swear they are who they say they are and explain where they live and what party they believe they should be a member of, and cast a vote, which commissioners are supposed to consider the validity of after the polls close. The law requires that states provide a way for voters to find out if their provisional vote was counted or if not, to learn the reason. This method must be free to the voters.

By law, an **affidavit ballot must be provided** for voters who are denied from voting but believe themselves to be eligible. Do not leave the polls without submitting a ballot, no matter what. It's your one vote that could end up making a difference.



Not everyone is available to vote on Election Day, however. Some are stationed overseas in the military, some have medical emergencies, are ill or disabled, and some have planned vacations for example. In these and other cases, you can vote by **absentee ballot**, which is a printed ballot marked by an absent voter, sealed in a special envelope, and mailed to the Board of Elections. Absentee ballot applications can be obtained online at the Board of Elections website or in person. The time frame for requesting an absentee ballot is 30 days before the election and it must be returned to the BOE seven days before the election. **Last day to postmark absentee ballots for the 2016 General Election is November 7.**

Even if you have a criminal record you can vote as long as you are not currently in prison for a felony conviction. The Board of Elections does not remove your name from the voting rolls if you are serving time in jail for a misdemeanor or are currently out of jail on probation. However, if you have been convicted of a felony and currently serving time in prison, you cannot vote. If you are currently on parole for a felony conviction, you can apply for a certificate of good conduct that will specifically restore your voting rights.

The last day to register to vote in the upcoming November 8 General Election is Friday, October 14. Applications must be received at the Board of Elections not later than October 19.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Why Do We Always Vote On a Tuesday?**

In 1865, the day of the horse and buggy, farmers needed a full day to travel to polling sites to vote. They also needed a full day to travel back home. With three days of weekly worship, that only left Tuesday and Wednesday. Since Wednesday was Market Day, Tuesday was the only day of the week to vote. Congress has kept Tuesdays as Election Day ever since. ■