



# Local 1342 Newsletter

Volume 19, Issue 10

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## Upcoming Charter Union Meetings

**October 9, 2019**

**Nomination of  
Union Officers**

November 13, 2019

December 11, 2019

January 8, 2020

February 12, 2020

March 11, 2020



All Charter Union  
Meetings are held at  
the Union Hall

**196 Orchard Park Rd.  
West Seneca NY**

**10:00 AM  
and  
7:30 PM**

## From the President's Desk By: Jeff Richardson

### **Together We Fight Together We Win**

Brothers and Sisters:

**Together** - In or into one place, mass, collection, or group.

**We** - And the rest of the group that includes me, you and I, and another or others.

**Fight** - To contend in battle, to put forth a determined effort.

**Win** - To get possession of by work or effort, to gain in battle, to be the victor in.

Together we have accomplished in Albany controlling the Senate and the Assembly. We now have the binding arbitration bill waiting to go over to the Governor. If we are successful, we will nev-

er have to wait 9 years for a contract to be settled.

Together we now have a brand-new bathroom facility at the Tonawanda Vulcan Loop as well as 181 Ellicott.

Together we must fight to stop the assaults that our operators face on a daily basis.

Together we fight for our mechanical, for clean air in the garages, better tool allowances, safety shoes and a safer work environment.

Together we fight for Paratransit Operators for higher wages, better start and finish times. We must fight for their scheduled lunch breaks.

Together we fight for our clerical department to be treated fairly as one unit. We need relief clerks in certain jobs where as the work stays within the ATU bargaining unit.

Together we fight for our Rail Operators and Rail Maintenance Department, a safe work environment in and out of the tunnel.

Together we fight for bathroom breaks, better runs and recovery time.

Brothers and Sisters, I need you and you need me and we all need each other.

**Together We Fight  
Together We Win!**

### Union Newspaper

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## A Message From Charlie Sikora Financial Secretary/Treasurer



The nomination notice letters were mailed out and we did receive some back due to incorrect addresses. Going forward during this election process, if you change your mailing address we need that information ASAP. There is a cost to reissue election ballots which I would like to keep at a minimum.

Nominations for union offices will be held at the October 9<sup>th</sup> union meeting at 10:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the Union Hall. For Coach USA at 5:30 p.m. on October 7<sup>th</sup> in Erie PA at the Coach USA Bus Station, and Grand Island Transit at 6:00 p.m. on October 8<sup>th</sup> at the GIT Bus Station.

This process in the past was difficult for the election committee to keep track of those being nomi-

nated for each office because members would be yelling out names from all around the hall. For this election there will be a microphone set up, as each office is called for nominations, those wishing to nominate a member will line up at the microphone, state their name and badge, and place their nomination. After it is recorded, the next member can place their nomination. This will be done for each office and will ensure a smoother process than what was done in the past.

When you receive your ballot, fill it out and mail it back the same day you receive it in the self-addressed envelope that will be provided in the ballot package to ensure your ballot will be counted.

Voted ballots to be

retrieved from the Post Office Box and transported to the tally site approximately 9:30 a.m. Any ballot not in the Post Office Box at that time will not be counted.

### **The important election dates are as follows:**

- Nomination for all union offices will be held at the Union Hall at 196 Orchard Park Rd. 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. on October 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Coach USA on October 7<sup>th</sup> 5:30 p.m. at the Coach USA Bus Station.
- Grand Island Transit on October 8<sup>th</sup> 6:00 p.m. at the GIT Bus Station.
- The ballots will be mailed from Pittsburgh PA on November 12<sup>th</sup>.
- The ballots will be counted at the Union Hall on December 12<sup>th</sup>

### **Retired in October 2019**

Darryl Dynarski  
David Machajewski

### **Deceased Members**

Ronald Marino  
9/19/19



## Ron Giza Vice President

“Committee On Political Education”  
COPE



Last month I had the honor and privilege of attending the Amalgamated Transit Union’s 59th International Convention. One of the hot topics of the Convention was the COPE Committee (Committee On Political Education). The purpose of COPE is to support politicians that support ATU labor issues. To be more precise, our motto is, “If you do not support us; not only will we not support you, **WE WILL WORK AGAINST YOU.**”

What we’ve already accomplished with COPE is to give a voice to our causes both at home in Western New York and in Albany by standing with pro labor politicians regardless of party affiliation. The people we have supported are now in positions of power which directly affect our livelihood. A prime example is NYS Senator Tim Kennedy whom we have supported since day

one. Kennedy is now the Chairmen of Transportation for New York State. Another great example is Crystal Peoples-Stokes, the new Majority Leader of the New York State Assembly. On the county level, we have supported the Chairmen and the Majority Leader of the Legislature, both of which are adamantly pro labor. Those that we support have passed, or are working to pass, pro-labor legislation within the NYS Senate and Assembly. This is only the beginning for us, our movement grows larger every day and even now we are involved with campaigns at the NATIONAL, STATE, and LOCAL levels.

I have worked hard to bring us to the political table and I couldn’t have got us this far without Jeff Richardson. When we walk into the room we are noticed, when we sit at the table, we are players in the game.

Jeff’s belief in this Committee and hard charge on this issue has allowed us to make major strides forward. I’d also thank Shaun Szejnar, Jerome Williams, Charlie Sikora, and all COPE Members and function attendees. And last, but certainly not least, I’d like to give a special thanks to the man who I consider the pioneer of the ATU Local 1342’s COPE, Brian P. McGuire.

Please see our list of ATU Local 1342 endorsed candidates for the 2019 election cycle on the back of this newsletter.

Don’t forget, Election Day is on November 5th, 2019. Also, this year you can vote early starting October 26th. **TOGETHER WE FIGHT, TOGETHER WE WIN.**

# Happy Birthday

Abbott, Donald  
 Albright, John  
 Archie, Daniel  
 Badura, Wade  
 Barbary, Charlene  
 Barner, Richard  
 Bell, Joann  
 Benitez, Claudia  
 Blackman, Derrick  
 Bonnas, Steven  
 Boykin, Kenneth  
 Brown, Dominique  
 Caputo, Joseph  
 Chesna, David  
 Clarke, Kevin  
 Craion, Dion  
 Dana Velvet  
 Davila, Robert  
 Dubois, Walter  
 Errington, Donald  
 Ferrar, Andrew  
 Flager, Bruce  
 Francis, Clayton

Galarza, Juan  
 Garon, Mark  
 Garrett, Darnell  
 Gmeinder, Jeffrey  
 Griffin Jr, Robert  
 Guenther, Janice  
 Guthrie, Kenneth  
 Harris, Jermaine  
 Hawkins, Mark  
 Hawkins, Sonja  
 Hunter, Marsden  
 Hurt, Kenneth  
 Hyman, Moses  
 Ingram, Elijah  
 Jones, Sterling  
 Jusiak, Jeffrey  
 Keane, Terence  
 Kemp, Kimberly  
 King-Lee, Laquashia  
 Kowarko, Michael  
 Lloyd, Thomas  
 Loynes, Benjamin

Luczak, Tracy  
 Ludwiszewski, Thomas  
 Lumpkins, Demetrius  
 Maldonado, Carlos  
 Mann, Trichel  
 Mathews, Janice  
 Milczarski, Richard  
 Montour, Michael  
 Nichols, John  
 Overton, Renando  
 Panaro, Patrick  
 Parker, Darnyl  
 Pearson, Summer  
 Peragine, Salvatore  
 Pritchard, Thomas  
 Prude, Shatay  
 Schwertfager, Andrew  
 Shaver, Rosalind  
 Simmons, Andre  
 Simmons, Charity  
 Smalls, Tyrone  
 Smith, Tracy

Spence, Donald  
 Sterner, Michael  
 Tanner, Dara  
 Thomas, Theodore  
 Thompson, Douglas  
 Thompson, Walter  
 Tirado, Michael  
 Tomaka, Russell  
 Tower, Jack  
 Townsend, Kevin  
 Vacanti, Michael  
 Walczak, Brad  
 Wallace, Jasmine  
 Wheaton, Victoria  
 Wilkes, Toni  
 Williams, Deborah  
 Williams, Valdaz  
 Winegarden, Robert  
 Woodruff, Alithia  
 Wynn, Barbra  
 Yash, David  
 Young, Rachael  
 Zeigler, Milton

## Important Information Regarding Benefits

### Notice of Qualifying Events and Benefit Changes

**Life Event Changes** — Benefit plans can be affected by life event changes, some of which qualify as an official change in status by the IRS. Generally, when you enroll in benefits as a new employee, you cannot make changes until the next Open Enrollment period. However, if you experience a qualified change in status, you can make mid-year changes.

**What is a Life Event?** - A life event change, also called a qualifying event, is a personal change in status which may allow you to change your benefit elections. A life event is as follows:

**Marriage, Divorce\*, Birth or Adoption,**

**Loss of Other Health Coverage, Spouse Begins or Ends Employment.**

\*When an employee is divorced, the ex-spouse is no longer eligible for health care coverage as a dependent spouse. **Employees must submit a change of event notice within 31 calendar days of the divorce to remove their former spouse.** The employee continuing coverage for a former spouse on the plan is considered insurance fraud.

**If you experience a qualifying event, you will need to request a change to your benefits within 31 calendar days** of the event and provide required documentation. If you do not request the change within 31 calendar days, the next opportunity you will have to make the changes to your benefits will be during the annual open enrollment.

# ***Metro Anniversaries***

Allinger, Robert	1	Horton, Michael	11	Payne, Thomas	12
Ando, Frederick	4	Illg, Kevin	3	Peragine, Salvatore	35
Becker, Scott	1	Jackson, Akmell	3	Perison, Donald	34
Bellamy Jr, Rodney	4	Jackson, Shawntrice	1	Peters, Joseph	35
Bishop, George	3	Jeffords, Kenneth	35	Pielecha, Thomas	1
Blackman, Derrick	8	Jones, Ronald	7	Reimondo, Paul	3
Britt, Rhonda	15	Judge, Angela	7	Rivera, Martin	1
Burke, Michael	8	Kalstek Jr, Frank	8	Rogers, Daniel	11
Byno, Tyshica	3	Kelly, Andre	14	Santana, Jonny	1
Caputo, Joseph	35	Kern, Paul	1	Scime, Anthony	6
Carney, Thomas	13	Kilgore, Michael	15	Sebastian, John	11
Cherry, Clydie	8	Kolb, James	8	Shanley, David	14
Ciesla, Michael	6	Kotowski, Frank	1	Shanley, Raymond	13
Cole, Albert	14	Kozub, Daniel	30	Snyder, George	2
Dobbs, Jason	1	Laboy, Destiny	1	Stallard, Michael	8
Edmond, Shaquille	1	Lipman, Ivy	12	Tyler, Anthony	18
Edmunds, Dawn	3	Lucas, Richard	12	Uhuru, Asante	1
Fonseca, Noel	1	Mahoney Jr, John	1	Velazquez, Vanessa	11
Frazier, Dawn	11	Massey Jr, Clarke	21	Werner, Joseph	35
Gagnier, Randy	4	Mentel, Joseph	11	Wheeler, Stephen	7
Garner, Ebony	3	Minoian, Donald	1	Wiggins Jr, Leon	1
Gray, Ian	1	Morales, Joel	1	Wiltsey, Benjamin	2
Guarino, Melissa	1	Ortwein Jr, Richard	4	Zeigler, Milton	16
Harris, Sharita	4	Owens, Aleesia	1	**Hogan, Melissa	5
Harrison, Troy	1	Padilla-Vazquez, Candace	4	(Omitted from September's Newsletter)	
Hawkins, Mark	12	Palmer, Isaac	7		
Herrera, Hector	6	Parker, Kenya	14		
Himmelsbach, Thomas	30	Parker, Wanda	12		
Hodge, Karen	3	Paulino, Carlos	1		





# ATU Local 1342 Endorsed Candidates for Election Day, November 5, 2019



**Erie County Executive** Mark Poloncarz

**Erie County Legislator**

District 1: Howard Johnson Jr.  
 District 2: April Baskin  
 District 3: Lisa Chimera  
 District 4: Kevin Hardwick  
 District 5: Jeanne Vinal  
 District 6: Bill Freeman  
 District 7: Tim Meyers  
 District 8: John Brusio  
 District 9: John Gilmore  
 District 11: Kathryn Eskew

**Town of Amherst**

Councilman: Michael Szukala  
 Councilman: Deborah Buck  
 Town Clerk: Fran Spoth

**Town of Aurora**

Councilman: Luke Wochensky

**Town of Cheektowaga**

Town Justice: Dave Stevens

**Town of Grand Island**

Supervisor: Jim Sparpe  
 Councilman: Jennifer Pusatier  
 Councilman: Beverly Kinney  
 Town Clerk: George Hauss

**Town of Lancaster**

Supervisor: Ron Ruffino  
 Councilman: Kristin McCracken  
 Councilman: Dave Mazur



## STATE OF NEW YORK 2019 ELECTION LAW



§ 3-110. Time allowed employees to vote. 1. A registered voter may, without loss of pay for up to three hours, take off so much working time as will enable him or her to vote at any election.

2. The employee shall be allowed time off for voting only at the beginning or end of his or her working shift, as the employer may designate, unless otherwise mutually agreed.

3. If the employee requires working time off to vote the employee shall notify his or her employer not less than two working days before the day of the election that he or she requires time off to vote in accordance with the provisions of this section.

4. Not less than ten working days before every election, every employer shall post conspicuously in the place of work where it can be seen as employees come or go to their place of work, a notice setting forth the provisions of this section. Such notice shall be kept posted until the close of the polls on election day.