
CITYTIME

BY ISRAEL MIRANDA, *Vice President*

Citytime also known as biometric hand scanning. This is a computerized time and leave program implemented by the City several years ago. There are many city agencies on this program now and many other agencies coming on line starting January, so I've been told. They say it is to move forward with a paperless timekeeping system. Instead of an employee signing in and out, he would use a hand scanning device, which would be fixed to a wall for recording what time he or she comes to work and leaves at the end of the day. It is currently being used at Metrotech, Fort Totten Academy and M.E.U. Phase one only targeted non-field personnel. We are living in a time where city agencies are using monitoring devices and suggest their reasoning is to provide better service to the public. We all know that monitoring devices like palm scanners, fingerprint readers, surveillance cameras, computer base time clocks, voice recognition systems and GPS systems only serve one purpose. This is to monitor the employees and hold them accountable. We have already seen how vehicle locators have been used to discipline many of our members. It is no longer a rumor, the city has contacted DC-37 and the local of their intention to begin Phase two. Phase two will target all field personnel of the EMS command. They believe it's software can be implemented with our platoon schedule. They intend to imple-

ment a pilot program starting in Manhattan in the near future. Rumor has it being implemented at the new Battalion 8. Don Faeth and I will be meeting with DC-37 Research and Negotiations and the city to discuss our concerns. We will question implementation and its impact on fields personnel.

It's hard to understand how the city believes this process is cost effective. A project that was supposed to cost about 61 million is anticipated to cost about 400 million of taxpayers money. Also, continued contracts for maintenance of project equipment and software in years to come need to be considered. At-a-time that the city is strapped, or crying poverty and city employees can't receive a fair wage increase, projects like such should not continue. We will keep you advised.



In Solidarity

Israel Miranda
Vice President

FORGING AHEAD

By Octavio Collado, *Executive Board Member*

To all my brothers and sisters,

I would like to take this time to thank all of you that voted in the last union elections. Every three years the Officers and Executive Board Members of your local union run for re-election. That is your time to tell us how well we are doing and that is the time when you are called upon to make a choice.

That is when you exercise your constitutional right to vote. With that right comes a heavy responsibility choosing the right person that is going to fight for your rights at the work place, negotiate a fair wage increase and protect the jobs of all EMT's and Paramedics from the ever growing threat of fire fighters encroachment into our job titles.

Yet our responsibility to you does not end there. The day to day responsibility that the average member isn't privy too, for instance lobbying for better pension reform either at city hall or at the state capital, endless meetings with management, The Mayor's Office and Office of Labor Relations. Let's not forget the health and safety meetings, CD representation at the battalions, BIT's, CCU's and the list goes on and on.

During my first two terms as an Executive Board Member I have had the privilege of attending some or all of those mentioned above. Along with the title of Executive Board Member I'm the local's representative at the Central Labor Council, and also the local's representative for EMSLA which is a national labor organization of EMT's and Paramedic's that meet to share information on issues that face EMS as a whole today. In the last six years I have enjoyed representing you, the greatest and the largest Emergency Medical Service in the USA.

As I embark on my third term as an Executive Board Member I would like to take this moment in thanking you the members of this local for having the confidence and trust in all of the Officers and Executive Board Members who represent you. As we forge forward into the future we stand ready and united to face the issues that will be in our way and overcome any obstacles that will attempt to prevent us from making this the best job in the world. But we can not do it alone because this will take the unbridle effort and unwavering strength of will from each and every member of this local. For these next three years I will continue to work with the same dedication and pride that I have had in the past.

NATIONAL EMS MEMORIAL – ROANOKE, VIRGINIA



NYS EMS MEMORIAL – ALBANY, NY



EMS LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION



Governor Paterson, Patrick Bahnken and Lobbyist R. Unger and Vice President Izzy Miranda.

FOCUSING ON YOUR JOB

By ANTHONY MIRANDA, *Executive Board Member*

I first want to thank everyone who voted in the election. It was very important for everyone to be involved and a part of the process. I look forward to meeting with you and working hard as one of the team members that you're elected to represent our membership.

I would like to discuss with you something I've noticed about some of our members out in the field. People need to be more attentive to their surroundings. Ask yourselves while you are in the passenger seat of the vehicle. Are you looking around to help your partner? Do you as the second member of the team look around to inform him or her of an approaching danger. Keep in mind accidents happen very fast, we all need to be in the "now" as it pertains to being alert to everything around you.

I speak with many people and there are lots of people who say with enthusiasm about going to P.D., fire suppression etc. But when we discuss EMS there always is a punch line. It seems to me that we have become so used to complaining that if you don't, you're not part of the team. In another word to feel like

you have all the experience and to belong, you have to have dreams on this job! Very little goes into what we are doing to improve things. It's always the next person that will do things to help better the job. While your Local is improving things negotiating in the city, you need to step up in the field and at the station. We are the best providers of pre-hospital care in the Nation. Well let's be the best with protruding a posture towards the job. I need you to start changing things. I hope you can feel what I'm trying to relay to all of you. Change doesn't happen over night, its taken years for us with all the fighting to get us ahead. We do not need to have negative attitude. So let's start now, tomorrow and go out to the station with positive talk and actions to move us forward in a positive direction. We can do it! We need your help! I want to leave you with the hope that better times are coming and may you all have productive and a happy experience in life. God bless you all.



IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE MEMBERS

By Fitzroy Benjamin, *Citywide Delegate Coordinator, Fire Protection Inspectors*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to speak about the difficult challenges that we are facing for this year of 2008.

As you already know, our Local is facing such difficult times to negotiate agreements that will be fair and worth waiting for all our members and their family.

I have to listen to the cries of members on a daily basis that they are running out of patience and that something must be ratified now. I too understand your pain, because some days, I feel like that myself.

However, I would like to remind you of the past and why we made a choice to move forward to a stronger union. Remember, that just a few years ago, no one knew who Fire Protection Inspectors were. Without any disrespect being intended to our previous Local, we did not have the opportunity to bargain alone as Fire Protection Inspectors seeking to address specific needs, thus we were buried in a voice of many.

Remember that our current Local is currently battling with the City to release us from the other cluster of unions so that only our voices can be heard during negotiations. If we yield to the city demands to negotiate under a cluster of unions, our voices will be buried once more and it will defeat the purposes of us merging with Local 2507. Our Local President is fighting

that as I write this.

Please remember that our Union is not just Patrick Bahnken, Israel Miranda, Darryl Chalmers and many of the other Executive Staff who dedicate their efforts for our needs. We are the Union; the members dictate what will be done. If we agree to take breadcrumbs, then its breadcrumbs that we will inherit. We all know that 9% can't even fill our gas tank. So then, we must endure the pain and wait it out until the majority of our members see something that's worth it in this day and age.

And speaking of majority, we must learn to work as one. I have stated countless times, if there is any form of division in the membership and/or ranks, it makes it so much more difficult for us to be successful in whatever we need to accomplish.

We all need to remember where we came from; and I mean from the ranks of Fire Protection Inspector to Chief Inspector. Managers who have struggled through the ranks of Inspectors and have forgotten their past do not realize that they are burning the steps to their future.

We have earned the privilege of being uniformed members. With that comes unity and respect for each other. If we don't learn to be altruistic, we will all fail our goals. Many of you know me. I may be a tough supervisor, but I am fair and I try to protect my young.

Thank you for your patience. Please don't give up. Good things always come to those who wait.

“LABOR AND THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION”



BY MUATA GREENE

As labor activists and trade unionists we need to look at our role and understanding of the United States political party system and whether the current system serves working class or so called middle class workers. The two party system is basically undemocratic, why you ask? Let's look at the following points.

- The nature of voter registration (complicated, should be automatic)
- Elections are held during a work day
- Winner-take-all
- Lack of public campaign financing, bias to the rich

The two national parties have no official ideology, like in other parts of the world where one is recruited to join mass political parties. This is where real debates go on within the parties, not like in America where it's a top down system. The rhetoric of doing politics different even in most unions falls back to politics as usual, there is always deep reluctance to take risk.

We need to address what it means to do politics different in unions, by engaging members at local level and across union boundaries, to discuss what a pro worker agenda is on a city, county and state level. It is not about the candidate but what is happening to working class people.

In order to build real political power for working people we must reform the system and work on building new worker organizations across this country.

I like to give credit and thanks to Bill Fletcher Jr. International Labor Writer and activist for the above ideas, which I gave my analysis on.

For more information: www.centerforlaborrenewal.org

The Nation magazine February 18, 2008 edition Aurora Project www.LibertyTreefdr.org "Voter Bill of rights"

A RIDE OF REMEMBRANCES

BY HAROLD HOOVER

For the last sixteen years, the Muddy Angels have cycled in remembrances of fallen EMS personal around the country and bring awareness to Line Of Duty Deaths and Injury. This year we cycle for Lt. Brian Ellicott, who died November 2007, from EMS communications.

The brothers and sisters who will carry his name to all they encounter are EMT Stacy Aarons; Rockaway Station 47; first ride, Medic Michael Dussuau; High Bridge Station 17; fourth ride, EMT Lt. Michael Kaiser; Brownsville Station 44; fourth ride, Medic Robert Kelly; South Bronx Station 14; first ride, Medic Lt. Michael Potasso; Division one; sixth ride and donated his hybrid bike to the National EMS Memorial Museum, Roanoke, Va., Medic Lt. Michael Sheridan; Rockaway Station 47; fifth ride, Medic Joe Ruiz; Bed Stuy Station 57; second ride, Medic Paul Vnuczenski; South Bronx Station 14; first ride and Medic Rachel Victor; Rockaway Station 47; first ride.

The tour started at the Morris Park Station 20, on Saturday May, 17, in the Bronx. With an escort from Frank Perez and Nicholas Ryan, in 20C2 and Anthony Truscelli and Barbiejo Geller, in 22C2, the tour went through The Bronx, Manhattan,

Brooklyn and Staten Island. In the next seven days the tour cycled through New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Washington and Virginia. In the more than six hundred miles they paid their respects at the many EMS and EMS/FD dedications and endured high winds, heavy rain storms, wild animals and one hundred degree days. The Shenandoah National Park stands as a test of their resolve to the mission of this tour. This mountain raises some three thousand six hundred and fifty feet in fifty miles; warm at the base and cold at the top; no level road over its entire length. The view was breathtaking, to your left, vistas of rolling countryside as far as the eyes could see, to the right, sheer mountain walls and signs for fallen rocks and beware of animal zones. The few cars on the road spend their time with their eyes watching for blind curves. The cyclist were alone and invisible. All chose to climb, with ears popping, they climbed, with air thinning, they climbed, with encounter of wild animals, they climbed, with dodging cars, they climbed. At the top some three to four hours later, with only their peers to cheer them on, one by one they finished. Rachel reflected on her climb. "Each pedal down became a tear drop that a family or loved one lost, every gust of wind was a breath they will never take again."

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EMT ROSALINA TORRES RETIREMENT



VACATION SEASON

BY RENAE O'CARROLL, *Executive Board Member*

The vacation season is upon us again, call volumes will be elevated, and at their convenience the FDNY will suspend the KVO program, usually on the weekends and “mandations” will be in effect, same scenario different summer. Well, I say to you as we have told the department STAFFING LEVELS ISN'T OUR PROBLEM. True we are going to be losing members to the next fire cadet class and along with other more appealing monetary civil service jobs. This is something that the department should have been prepared for well in advance. They very well know that FDNY/EMS has a very high attrition rate mainly due to the unappealing salary. The department fully knows that local 2507 will not allow our members to become mules, carrying the weight for numbers that aren't there. The department fully knows that the union will fight for our members that comply with the current agreed KVO program. I say all this so that the members place themselves into the KVO program to give the union a leg to stand on in the event that they have to

defend individuals who may have been issued CD's for not complying with a “mandation.” If there aren't enough spots at your battalion look for vacancies in your division that doesn't conflict with your tour. Those members that do not sign up for the KVO program remember you can be mandated up to two (2) tours during your work week. We fully understand that there are members that have reasons for not being able to fulfill any overtime. All we can say is, “do what you can to avoid the “mandations”. If a member is being mandated and absolutely cannot comply, he or she should contact their respective delegate or have the “on call” paged. They should not be confrontational with management (because that may lead to CD's or charges unrelated to the “mandation”) but rather reach out to the union resources in order to get advice regarding options on what could be done about their specific situation. WE ARE THERE FOR YOU VIA THE OFFICE MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY 9 A.M. TO 5 P.M. OR BY REACHING YOUR DELEGATE VIA PAGER BUT SOMEONE WILL ALWAYS BE AVAILABLE. I wish all of you a safe and healthy summer.

COMMON COURTESY, COMMON SENSE AND COMMON MISTAKES



BY DONALD FAETH, RECORDING-SECRETARY

How do you want to start your work day? It would be great if we could just hop in the bus, grab a cup of coffee and a newspaper and go park somewhere. But we all know that reality is quite the bitch.

As you know, we are expected to be available for an assignment the very second our tour starts. Yet, the system also expects us to acquire and sign for our radios, keys, dosimeters, narcotics (medics), etc. on top of checking your vehicle and equipment while you're being told to go log on and go 89 as soon as possible (the lieutenants are also being harassed by people above them). For most of us, this is probably the most stressful part of our day. However, the crew coming off duty can either minimize or maximize it. Minimizing it can be achieved with a few simple common courtesies and the use of a little common sense.

Simply put, at the end of your tour, the vehicle and equipment should be 'ready to go' for the oncoming crew. Here, common sense and common courtesy often go hand and hand. Basically, if you used it, replace it. That means, O2 in the bag should not be less than 900 psi, three full bottles should be left in the holder rack. (Never, ever, leave the main O2 tank below 500 psi for the next crew). That means a clean sheet in the stair-chair and on the stretcher and at least a half full tank of gas in the vehicle. That means leaving a trash can with room to put more stuff in it, and nothing to clean up off the floor or the bench. Common sense specifically applies to not leaving remnants of your personal items, snacks, lunch, etc., in the front cab for someone else to clean up. Additionally, for medics, that means leaving an LP-12 with charged batteries and non-red-lined paper. It means having a moody tube in the drug bag minimally packed with a starter kit, saline source, lock and an angio. It means at least two fully stocked inserts and a tube kit with nine blades that have working bulbs and a full array of tubes (why does it appear sometimes that it's always the same people who replace these items?). How about leaving a few E-PCR's, and at least one envelope in the cab, or at a

minimum, advise the oncoming crew to grab a few before they go out to the vehicle. I think you get the picture. It's just common sense and appropriate courtesies we should extend to one another.

Common mistakes... don't park the vehicle where the oncoming crew is being pressured to move it immediately (on the pumps, blocking cars, etc.) Don't sign your name to your partners' equipment (you might think that this is a common courtesy, but it is actually a common mistake). Don't leave the batteries on or leave your PPE bag in the compartment because you will be coming back in on the following tour (there isn't enough room for the on-coming crews equipment to begin with, they shouldn't be forced to leave more unsecured items in the back). And the number one, biggest, most common mistake of all... if the crew before you violates everything I have started here, **DON'T TELL THE SUPERVISOR**, just deal with it! You have a right to be angry. If they are still there, pull them aside and let them know why you are angry. If not, grab them the next day or call them on the phone (there might be a legitimate reason why things were left the way they were) or speak to your delegate, but don't initiate something that might generate paperwork. Two wrongs don't make a right. If you have repeatedly addressed the issue and problems continue, call the union office or give me a call (646) 662-6274. There are creative ways of dealing with inappropriate behavior without killing trees or being labeled a 'rat' at your station. I will be more than happy to assist you with the situation, and who knows, we might even have some fun with it.

At the end of the day, you have all heard me say or write it before... we need to take care of one another out there. Salaries and weak partners sometimes take time to change, but bad habits and good practices can change overnight. Be the change you want to see happen. Don't allow yourself to succumb to the negativity and bad practices of others... you will only inadvertently end up hurting yourself.

As always, stay safe and united!

THE ULTIMATE INSULT

BY JACK SCHAEFER, *Grievance Coordinator*

For those of us who are too busy to notice what's wrong with our global economy, the NY Times recently ran an article "Globalization for Dummies." The race to the bottom involves sending job overseas, which creates so many layoffs here, that businesses that specialize in debt collection from the working class are thriving. Then the debt collection jobs move overseas. "In New Delhi (India) dozens of young Indians are on the telephone, calling out of work, debt-stricken, Americans and asking for cash."

"The Encore Capital Group, a debt collection company based

in San Diego, has pep talks designed especially for workers at its call center in India. "Are you sure that's all you can afford?" one operator in a row of cubicles asks politely. "Well, how do you take care of your everyday expenses?" asks another. "Debt collectors in India earn about one-quarter of what their American counterparts earn. Working debt collectors in India, calling unemployed Americans. Americans whose jobs were probably sent overseas! It doesn't get any more ironic than that. As the national election approaches a careful examination of the candidates beliefs on the global economy and "free trade" is defiantly in order. The vote you cast may preserve your job.

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

THE MORE THINGS CHANGE...

BY PATRICK J. BAHNKEN, *President*

For many of the “dinosaurs” on this job, the recent spike of both call volume and the number of calls that we are holding on any given day is nothing new. In the late 1980’s and again in the mid 1990’s, severe staffing shortages due to poor management and low pay and morale combined to create the perfect storm that again confronts us today.

True to form, the Fire Department has dusted off the “Screw the Employee” handbook and has responded with the plan to require you to work more tours while simultaneously asking the Voluntary Hospitals to run additional tours.

To put it simply, to reward you for carrying the burden of their mismanagement, the department will now hit you harder while giving away your jobs.

In the past, the Union has encouraged members to fill overtime vacancies so that we can maintain the level of service that the residents and visitors of this City expect from us. It is only your commitment and professionalism to the public that prevents this system from collapsing.

When approached by the department to discuss their proposed change to the KVO program, the Union recommended a simple and humane alternative. Our suggestion was

a lifting of the overtime cap and to allow volunteers to take additional tours. We explained to the department that many members expressed fear that exorbitant overtime during the summer months would leave them “capped” in the fall and unable to provide a decent holiday for their families.

Needless to say, your concerns over how you pay your bills in the fall are of no concern to the department. Their ONLY concern is how to cover up the problems created by the low pay, poor morale, and high attrition. They could care less about your concerns!

Until this department and the City address the real issues by providing a fair and livable wage and an alternative work schedule that maximizes manpower utilization, these problems will continue.

Those who ignore history are doomed to repeat it. If I close my eyes, it is 1988 all over again.

In Solidarity

Patrick J. Bahnken
President



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