

BANNER

Welcome Back Under One Banner



On behalf of the officers of the Mason Tenders District Council, our affiliated Local Unions and the Trustees of Greater New York LECET, I want to welcome you to the new and revised *Under One Banner*. As many of you will recall, for many years *Under One Banner* served as a regular means of communication between the leadership of our Union and the membership. The communications revolution that we have all

experienced in the last decade has offered us many new ways to communicate – email, texting, Twitter, social networks – it sometimes seems that there is some new way to communicate every day. However, we have found that for many of our members and their families, the written communication still remains a key tool in getting information out. That is why we have re-launched the magazine and are incorporating it into our multi-faceted communications strategy. The magazine will serve as one component of our commitment to provide our members with all the information they need to be informed, involved union members.

Under One Banner will have many of the same features that the previous magazine contained:

- News from the Local Unions of the Mason Tenders District Council;
- Reports from the officers of our International Union;
- Economic and business information, vital to our industry;
- Stories about our members and their involvement in our union and communities.

The new publication will also include stories about our employers and management partners. In coming issues, the magazine will serve as an engine to additional information, including directing readers to websites for more information, translations of stories and access to documents and pictures. Most importantly we hope that the magazine will serve as a vehicle where members will be able to share with all of us information and stories about their lives.

So sit back and enjoy this publication. And let us know what you think.

Fraternally,

Robert Bonanza
Business Manager
Mason Tenders District Council



Armed Forces Reserve Center Completed on Long Island

Work was recently completed on the \$90 million Armed Forces Reserve Center in Farmingdale, New York. Local 66 members, seen above, have been busy putting the final touches and punch list items on the new facility (seen below right), which will have classrooms and training facilities for members of the Army, Navy, Marines and National Guard. The formal dedication took place in December.



Left: Local 66 Apprentice Michele Kassl, working in the Rotunda of the new Armed Forces Reserve Center (pictured below). Michele is completing her fourth year in the apprenticeship program. Bottom left: Local 66 Business Manager Steve Flanagan talking with Local 66 member Virgil Brown.



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Leading America Back to Prosperity

As 2011 gets underway, we are all hopeful that the worst of the devastating recession is behind us. The last two years have not been easy.



The New York area did better than some places in America, but we did not escape unharmed. The hardworking men and women of the Mason Tenders District Council worked 14 million hours in 2010. While that is down from our record highs of a few years ago, it is still more than we worked a decade ago.

One of the reasons that we are hopeful about 2011 and beyond is that our Union has a seat at the table with the people making the economic policies for our nation, our state and our city. We are creating the solution that will move our nation out of the recession.

At the national level, while President Barack Obama has not always lived up to the high expectations that we had for him, he is still a much better friend to labor than his predecessor. We expect him to lead our nation forward in this recovery for the rest of this term and, hopefully, the next. General President Terence M. O'Sullivan, the General Executive Board, our staff in Washington, and LIUNA leaders across the country are often brought in for advice on national policy matters.

It is a new day for the Mason Tenders at the state level. New Governor Andrew Cuomo is committed to economic development throughout the state. While there are challenges ahead, he has pledged to get New York working again. We look forward to working with the Governor and helping him turn New York around.

In New York City, Mayor Michael Bloomberg continues to be a friend to the construction trades. He is committed to responsible development in our city. We have worked closely with the Mayor during his time in office and look forward to continuing this relationship.

At all levels, the Laborers Union and the Mason Tenders are key players in setting the economic and political agenda. We will work with any politician, regardless of political affiliation, if he or she is willing to fight for union jobs—to fight for Laborers' jobs.

We consider it our duty, our obligation, to help all workers live better lives. But it is our sacred commitment to help our members. That is our top priority by far. Making sure that you have good jobs lined up that provide wages and benefits that take care of your families is job number one for us.

But this is not just stuff that happens for you. As always, you have a critical role to play. Everything in our Union starts and ends with our members. It's working with the foreman on a job to overcome challenges and complete the project safely, on time and with the high quality that people expect from Mason Tenders. It's getting out on the picket line to fight for good jobs. It's voting and taking part in the political process. And it's attending meetings and keeping involved in your Union.

Working together, from the streets to the White House, Laborers will play an important part in guiding our nation back to prosperity.

Raymond M. Pocino
Vice President and
Eastern Region Manager, LIUNA



Annual Retiree Holiday Party

The Mason Tenders District Council held its annual Retiree Holiday Party in December. Over 800 retirees and their guests attended the event, which included great food, music and holiday baskets and gifts. Retired LIUNA Secretary-Treasurer and President of the International Retiree Council,

Terence J. O'Sullivan attended and delivered holiday greetings from LIUNA General President Terence M. O'Sullivan and the entire General Executive Board.



Greater New York Laborers-Employers Cooperation & Education Trust GNY LECET



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A Partnership Committed to the Future

266 West 37th Street Suite 1100, New York, NY 10018
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Greater New York Laborers-Employers Cooperation & Education Trust, GNY LECET, was established in 1998 as a partnership between the 15,000 members of the Mason Tenders District Council and its 1,500 signatory contractors. The underlying principle of GNY LECET is that, through this partnership between labor and management, the organized sector of the construction industry can grow and prosper. This creates opportunities for signatory contractors and jobs for the highly trained, skilled Laborers. GNY LECET focuses on four areas to accomplish its mission – research and business development; industry promotion; legislative and regulatory action; and monitoring of fair contractors and prevailing wage laws and regulations.

Design by Abelardo Martinez

Photography by Don Pollard



LIUNA Working with Elected Officials

At all levels of government, LIUNA leaders are working to protect and expand job opportunities for the members of the Mason Tenders District Council

Over 800 Attended the Party and Reunion

To see more pictures from the Retiree Holiday Party and Reunion, go to www.flickr.com/photos/gnylecet

It's Time to Take Care of America for a Change

A Message from LIUNA General President Terence M. O'Sullivan

Putting men and women back to work building New York and building America must be at the top of our national agenda if we are to get our nation's economy back on track. That's the goal of LIUNA's Build America campaign, which has launched in seven states and will launch in New York in the coming year.

The need is clear. There are 1.5 million jobless construction workers who want to go to work building our transit systems, tunnels, bridges, water systems and public facilities. Meanwhile, experts believe these basics in our nation have deteriorated to the point where America is at risk of no longer being able to compete with nations such as China – a country which invests five times what the United States does in critical infrastructure.

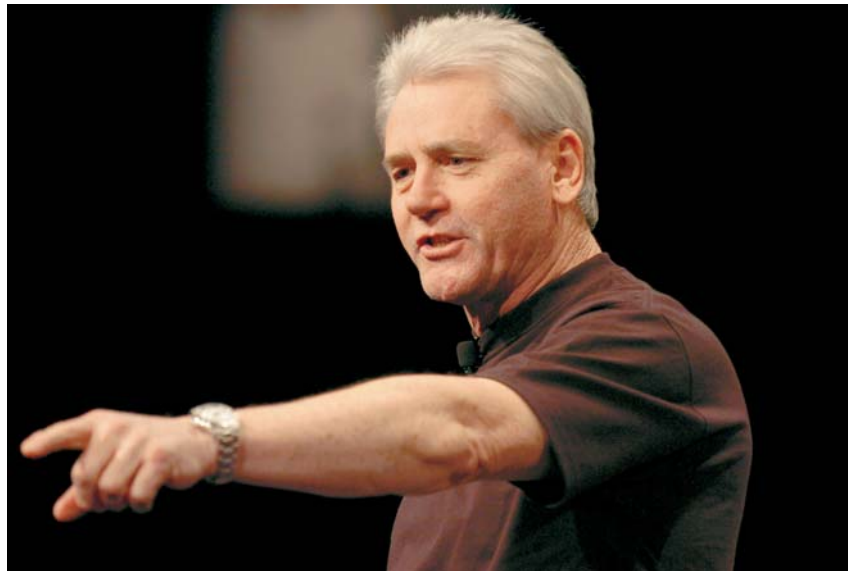
It's a no-brainer. Through Build America, we can put men and woman back to work, get the economy moving again and leave behind a positive legacy for taxpayers, our children and our grandchildren. In the last six months, LIUNA members have united with employers and other allies at rallies, called and written elected officials and reached out to fellow members about the need to create good jobs building our country.

LIUNA has reached out to the public through an aggressive ad effort, warning motorists with billboards at deficient bridges and taken the message to millions of Americans through the news media.

We are making progress and we are being heard. President Obama has adopted a vision of rebuilding 150,000 miles of roads, laying and maintaining 4,000 miles of rail and restoring 150 miles of airport runways, as well as promoting a \$50 billion investment to jumpstart the effort to create jobs and strengthen our country's ability to compete.

Still, there is no doubt the results of November's elections will require us to work harder and smarter. With more politicians who oppose public investment – just as New Jersey's governor has done by killing the jobs-creating tunnel project – more than ever we will need to take our message to the public.

In the coming months, LIUNA members in New York and across the country will be pressuring elected officials to act, reaching out and uniting with allies. With the leadership of LIUNA Vice President and Eastern Region Manager Ray Pocino and Mason Tenders District Council Business Manager Bobby Bonanza, I know the Mason Tenders are up for the task. Because our jobs, our Union and our future depend on it.



Local 78 Welcomes LIUNA Vice President Ray Pocino

The officers and members of Local 78 welcomed LIUNA Vice President and Eastern Region Manager Raymond M. Pocino to the November membership meeting. "We are always honored to welcome Vice President Pocino to our meeting," said Business Manager Edison Severino. Pocino discussed with the members how the results of the recent national elections would impact the International Union's efforts to achieve comprehensive immigration reform, increased federal funding for construction jobs and the overall economic and job prospects for the Union.

Pocino's presence added to the significance of the meeting that included the distribution of back wages dues to grievance settlements to 72 members. The settlements, totalling over \$272,000, were the result of actions taken by the Local against Delta Environmental and Navillus Construction for violating the collective bargaining agreement. The meeting concluded with the annual distribution of holiday turkeys to all members in attendance.



Far Left: Local 78 Business Manager Edison Severino welcomes Vice President Pocino to the membership meeting.
Above: Secretary-Treasurer Pawel Gruchacz greets members before the start of the meeting.



LIUNA Putting Men and Women to Work

LIUNA's Build America program is focused on helping more Americans to get jobs; to learn more visit www.liuna.org

LIUNA Vice President Pocino at Local 78

To see more pictures of LIUNA Vice President and Eastern Region Manager Ray Pocino at the November membership meeting, go to www.flickr.com/photos/ignylecet

Labor-Management at its Best

“This is labor-management at its best.” That’s how Mike Hellstrom, Business Manager & Secretary-Treasurer of Recycling, Waste Handlers Laborers’ Local 108 describes the relationship between the Union and IESI, the largest private waste collection company in New York City. In an industry known for its rough and tumble image, the story of IESI and Local 108 is truly a remarkable one. Over the last seventeen years, while the company has grown and prospered, the workers have also shared in the prosperity with good jobs and dramatically improved wages and benefits.

“This is truly a Cinderella story,” said Hellstrom. “Together, we have created a work environment that is beneficial for everyone. Fourteen years ago IESI bought and merged nine smaller companies into IESI. The numbers speak for themselves:

- 100 employees then; over 235 in the Bronx and New Jersey today
- Starting wage for drivers then \$10/hour; \$26 per hour today
- Wage for helpers \$7 per hour then; \$22 per hour today
- Today, 75 trucks headquartered at the Bronx facility
- 30,000 tons of refuse processed each month.

But perhaps the most impressive number is the longevity of some of the most important people. Frank Lino, the IESI district manager, has been in the industry since 1974. For the last 12 years, Frank has brought his experience and professionalism to IESI.

“Frank exemplifies what is right about IESI,” said Hellstrom. “IESI is a large, publicly traded company, but locally managed and run. That management strategy is probably the key to its success. We know that if there are any issues to be addressed, they will be resolved at the local level, by the people who work with us, side-by-side, day after day. They know us, and know our concerns and we share in their commitment to make this company successful.”

Local 108 has a long history with IESI that goes beyond the collective bargaining process. Local 108 Recording Secretary Corey Coleman worked at the facility starting in 1988. “This work is hard, and often the work and workers are looked down upon. One thing I will always remember is the way management treated us. We are partners and treated as such. I was always treated with respect and dignity,” Coleman said. Today, Local 108



Second from top: Local 108 Business Manager Mike Hellstrom greeting IESI district manager Frank Lino. Local 108 members Joe Lopez (welding) Ernesto Rodriguez (on left) and (at right) Efrain Collado and Corey Coleman (in truck).

Executive Board member Allan Holmes works as chief shop steward at the Bronx facility.

You need only to walk through the facility in the Bronx to see the pride that labor and management take in their work. Collecting, sorting and recycling trash is a dirty job. Yet the facility is as clean as any hospital emergency room. “We all take great pride in our work,” said Frank Lino. “Working together we have all come to realize the American dream. That is probably the great untold story about IESI and Local 108.”

Lech Walesa Supports New York Building Trades



As thousands of members of the building and construction trades unions filled the streets south from Times Square, demanding quality jobs, the man that took the podium and filled the large jumbotron screens was met with a roar that was heard for blocks. Standing at the podium was 1983 Nobel Peace Prize winner, former President of Poland and founder of the Solidarity Movement, Lech Walesa. The man who probably had the greatest influence on the fall of the Soviet Union and the establishment of democracy and free trade unions in the former Communist Eastern

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Meet the Workers of Local 108

To see more pictures from this job site, go to www.flickr.com/photos/gnylecet

Walesa's Message from Times Square

To see more pictures Lech Walesa's visit to New York, go to www.flickr.com/photos/gnylecet



E.W. Howell and Local 66 Working Together on Long Island



E.W. Howell General Supervisor of the Brookhaven project Harry Hansen (second from right) reviews plans for the new Brookhaven Laboratory Office Building with Local 66 officials Pete Zarcone, Business Manager Steve Flanagan and Joe Cavalieri. Hansen has been with E.W. Howell for over 10 years, supervising some of its most complex and important projects.



E.W. Howell is one of the oldest construction firms working in the New York City metropolitan region. Based on Long Island, the firm, founded in 1891 as a family based construction company, originally served as a premier builder of many of the gold coast mansions on Long Island. Today the firm is a diversified one and well known for high quality commercial projects in various market sectors. Company president Howard Rowland has been with Howell since 1983 and has taken the firm in new directions. The firm, well known for its high end private work, also completed public projects for the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York, the Department of Energy and a number of Long Island school districts.

The Brookhaven National Laboratory projects are the most recent in a long list of high profile jobs that carries the E.W. Howell name. Located in Suffolk County, the Brookhaven Lab site is no regular laboratory. The site is so large it has its own postal zip code, and includes a community with housing, schools and its own post office. E.W. Howell is currently responsible for development of the new Laboratory Office Building (LOB) and the Interdisciplinary Science Building (ISB). These two projects are just the latest in a series of projects Howell was responsible for at Brookhaven. Over the last five years, five of the six major projects at Brookhaven were awarded to Howell: the chilled water plant; the Nano Technology Lab; the Research Building 400; and now the LOB and ISB, for a total of \$150 million.

Work on the LOB and ISB began in December with 40 members of Local 66 once again on the job. When construction gets going full force, over 175 Laborers will be on the site. "A job like this is incredibly important," said Steve Flanagan, Local 66 Business Manager. "These laboratories are bringing 21st century technology to not only Long Island, but the whole nation and world. We take great pride in playing a role in building these state-of-the art facilities," said Flanagan.

Over the last two years the economy of Long Island suffered as a result of the economic crises. The federal government's stimulus program was implemented to provide funds to get the economy moving again. Part of the funding for this phase of the Brookhaven project is money from the stimulus package. "This is what the stimulus package was meant to do, provide money for projects that were ready to go and were stalled because of the economic slowdown," said Flanagan. "Nothing stimulates a local economy more than good construction jobs. And that is exactly what is happening here on Long Island at the Brookhaven Labs.



Brookhaven National Laboratory, National Synchrotron Light Source II (NSLS-II) and Lab Office Buildings.

(Lech Walesa continued)

Europe, had come to New York to urge our members to remain steadfast in our commitment to demanding good quality union jobs. He spoke of the movement that had begun at a small ship building yard in Gdansk, Poland and spread throughout Poland, Eastern Europe and ultimately the Soviet Union. Because of their determination and solidarity they were able to stare down and defeat the powerful army and political establishment of the Soviet Union.



The crowd that stretched for blocks was dominated by the orange LIUNA t-shirts.



Local 66 Workers at Brookhaven Labs

To see more pictures of Local 66 workers at the Brookhaven National Laboratory, go to www.flickr.com/photos/gnylect

Walesa's Message from Times Square

To see more pictures Lech Walesa's visit to New York, go to www.flickr.com/photos/gnylect

A Phoenix Rises



On the surface it looks, sounds and feels like any other large construction site. But it is not.

Originally known as lower Manhattan, then the World Trade Center, and for the last nine years Ground Zero, today the site of the 9-11 attacks is a hub of construction activity. Towers are rising again, the transportation hub is taking form and, at the center of the site, the two footprints of the original towers are becoming the memorial to the victims of the attacks.

Each day over 3,000 construction workers, including 100 members of Local 79, enter the site, via one of

the most sophisticated security systems you have seen outside of the movies. What looks like the typical turnstile you encounter when you enter the subway is in fact a high tech eye scanner. Each worker must swipe their identity card and then look through an eye scanner that matches their retina with the information on their ID card. If there is a match, the turnstile releases and allows them to enter the jobsite.



Work is currently underway on the new 106-story One World Trade, formerly known as the Freedom Tower. When completed, the tower will rise 1,776 feet. Work is also currently underway for the new transportation hub. While the new hub is being built the New York City subway that once

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Local 78 & New York - A Union and A City That Never Sleep

In the classic Frank Sinatra song, "New York, New York", there is the line, "I want to wake up in the city that never sleeps." It is doubtful that when Sinatra recorded this song he was thinking about the members of Local 78, but that is the case today. While the rest of New York is sleeping, two crews from Local 78 are awake and working on a massive abatement job in the middle of Times Square. From 3:00 PM to 11:30 PM and then from 11:30 PM to 8:00 AM, two shifts of Local 78 members are working for PAL Environmental on the abatement of the Milford Plaza Hotel.

"I love this job," said Shop Steward Doris Velez-Davila. A Colombia native, with a college degree in business administration from the University of Santiago-Cali, Velez-Davila loves the freedom that working in abatement provides. "I feel like a fish in water, free to move from job to job," she said. But the work is not easy. Each day Velez-Davila and her 13 fellow Local 78 members head to work in the late afternoon. They arrive, change into their protective suits and respirators and then head into the contaminated area on each floor of the hotel. The first phase of the project includes cleaning up the hot water pipes that run through the

bathrooms and closets of the hotel. The walls need to be opened, all exposed areas properly protected and then the asbestos removed. At the end of her shift, Doris transfers her responsibilities to the next Shop Steward, Juan Carlos Chiang, who works with a crew of 12 people from

11:30 PM to 8:00 AM the next morning. Room by room, floor by floor the walls are opened, the pipes cleaned, the asbestos removed, and then the walls are closed back up. While workers abate one section of the hotel, the other half remains open to hotel guests.

"This very dangerous work," said Local 78 Business Manager Edison Severino. "Thanks to the training and skills of our members, this work is done with minimal risk to their health and the health of the general public. When you are working with a company like PAL Environmental, it makes it a lot easier. They are very diligent and take their responsibilities very seriously. No corners are cut, no short cuts are taken. In this

business there is no room for error. We work together everyday to make sure that these jobs are done safely, professionally and thoroughly," Severino said.



Local 78 Business Manager Edison Severino and Secretary-Treasurer Pawel Gruchacz greet Tannesia Washington. Washington is a third-year apprentice.



Near left: Shop Stewards Juan Chionoj and Doris Velez-Davila show Business Manager Severino the recently abated hot water pipes in one of the hotel rooms.



Local 79 at One World Trade Center

The Topping Off Ceremony for One World Trade Center is scheduled for January 2012

Local 78 Workers and PAL Environmental

To see more pictures of Local 78 workers at the Milford Plaza Hotel, in Times Square, go to www.flickr.com/photos/gnylecet



(WTC continued)

ran under the World Trade Center traverses the site in an exposed tunnel. While the demolition of the Deutsche Bank comes to a conclusion, work is already underway for the new Tower Four.

“This place holds special meaning to me,” said Local 79 Business Manager John Delgado. “I was part of the crew that built the original Trade Center,

and following the 9-11 attacks I was down here for eight months straight, seven days a week, working as a Business Agent during the clean-up. To be Business Manager of Local 79, as we re-build this magnificent site is one of the highlights of my career. I feel a sacred commitment to this site and all that it represents,” Delgado added.

(Left to right): Six-year member Tyrone Robinson and Business Manager John Delgado on the 23rd Floor; Delgado and Shop Steward Phil English, a 13-year member of the Local, survey the building’s core from the 42nd floor; and Local 79 Business Agent George Zecca, Delgado, English and labor foremen Anthony Venditti and Domicik Venditti.

Every afternoon, Local 79 members load up containers and remove tons of trash from the upper floors.



An Interview with Paul O’Brien

As Managing Director of the Building Contractors Association, New York’s largest trade association for general contractors, Paul O’Brien is responsible for forging industry-wide labor agreements with the city’s Building Trades unions, including the Mason Tenders District Council. O’Brien serves as a trustee on many trade union fringe benefit funds, including the Mason Tenders Welfare Fund and Greater New York LECET. Given the vital role the BCA plays in the health and survival of our industry, we recently interviewed Mr. O’Brien to learn a bit more about the BCA and what he sees for the future.



of the BCA, working with our union partners place so much emphasis on training and education of the members. The Mason Tenders Training Fund is a state-of-the-art facility that offers members of the Mason Tenders District Council the education and training needed to have a successful career in construction. That’s why both labor and management are constantly urging all members to take advantage of the training offered. A skilled Laborer will always be in demand.

UOB: So often the only time we hear about labor-management relations is when there is a problem. Why is the relationship between the Laborers and management often referred to as a “partnership”?

O’Brien: I think that partnership is based on mutual respect and an understanding, on both sides, that in order for us all be the successful, we need to work together. As partners, we recognize that we are not each other’s enemy, but rather we share a common enemy, the non-union sector. We need to work together, labor and management, to develop new ways of doing business. We need to maintain the high standards in skills and safety. That can only be attained by working in partnership. Many of the greatest assets that are available to union members are a result of this partnership – training, health insurance, pensions, and, most importantly, good wages. These are all as a result of the collective bargaining process. The process, and the results, are only as good as those who are participating. I think you will agree that, despite the challenges we face, the partnership between the Laborers and the BCA has provided very positive, tangible results for both labor and management. That is what this partnership is all about.

UOB: Does this partnership extend beyond the jobsite?

O’Brien: Absolutely. Working together, management and the Laborers are among the most generous and philanthropic. Each year dozens of worthy organizations come to us, seeking support for their causes. We do our best to help as many people as we can. I think one of the things that we all recognize, in both labor and management is that this industry has been very good to us. And, because of that we share a commitment to giving back to the communities where we live and work. That shared commitment is one of our strongest bonds.

UOB: Can you give us a brief history of the BCA and how it has evolved?

O’Brien: The Building Contractors Association was established in 1933 with nine signatory contractors. Today the BCA is New York’s leading association of construction managers and general contractors with a membership of over 170 construction firms. Our membership is diversified and includes construction contractors of all sizes performing a broad scope of work, from new core and shell construction to comprehensive interior alterations.

UOB: How has the industry evolved over the years, and what are the challenges we face today?

O’Brien: In many ways, today’s construction industry is completely different than 1933. Technology has transformed the way we build structures, the way we finance projects and the way we communicate. One thing has remained constant – the need for a highly skilled workforce to build our structures. New York City is the envy of the world when it comes to construction and that is in no small part because of the quality of the workforce.

UOB: How do we maintain that skilled workforce?

O’Brien: Training, training and more training. That is why the members



A Partnership Committed to the Future

Together, the BCA and the building trades unions have built New York City and Long Island as no other partnership could.

300 Laborers Work at Aqueduct Race Track

To see more pictures of the ground-breaking ceremony at the new Aqueduct Racetrack Casino, go to www.flickr.com/photos/gnylect



Greater New York Laborers-Employers Cooperation & Education Trust

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Jobs, Jobs, Jobs: Work Begins on New Aqueduct Race Track Casino

After years of planning, economic turbulence, political wrangling and general delays, ground was broken this past fall on the new world-class casino at Aqueduct Race Track. Political leaders, including Governor David Paterson, joined business, community and labor leaders at the ceremony that marked the beginning of a \$350-million construction project. Nearly 300 Laborers will be employed during the project; with members of Local 78 beginning the abatement process just days after the ceremonial groundbreaking took place. Representing the members of the Building and Construction Trades Council of Greater New York, President Gary LaBarbera said, "When so many jobs around our city are being cut, it is encouraging to see such a tremendous project as this one, which will offer so many New Yorkers reliable sources of income."

Mason Tenders District Council Business Manager Robert Bonanza was joined by Local 79 Business Manager John Delgado and members of Local 79's Executive Board at the ceremony. "This is a great day for our union," said Bonanza. "Over 300 members of our union will be working here, building this magnificent facility. This project will hopefully be the first step in an economic and construction boom for south Queens. A boost in tourism in this region will bring more construction jobs and more permanent jobs. This is a win-win situation for the community, the city and our members."



The casino, known as the Resorts World New York project, is being developed by Genting New York LLC, a global entertainment and tourism company. When completed the facility will feature 4,500 video lottery terminals; multiple food offerings, from high-end restaurants to buffet eateries and a food court; and a stage for live performances.



Joining Local 79 President Kenneth Brancaccio, Mason Tenders District Council Business Manager Robert Bonanza, Local 79 Business Manager John Delgado and Local 79 Vice President John Norbury are Local 79 members LaVan Williams, John Sullivan, Steve Hoyler and Matt Stechko. Nearly 300 Laborers will be among the 1,400 members of the building and construction trades unions working on this project.

MTDC Business Manager Bobby Bonanza, BCTC President Gary LaBarbera and Queens Assemblywoman Audrey Pheffer join in the ceremony marking the beginning of the Aqueduct project. Assemblywoman Pheffer has been a driving force in getting this project built, using union labor.