

**BURNING**

# BRIGHT



Transport Workers Union  
Utility Division

Transport Workers Union Local 101 AFL-CIO 195 Montague St., 3rd Floor,  
Brooklyn, NY 11201 Tel: 718-745-7597 [www.twulocal101.org](http://www.twulocal101.org)



*LOCAL 101 PRESIDENT  
CONSTANCE BRADLEY AND  
TOP OFFICERS SWORN IN TO  
**3-YEAR TERMS***

*LOCAL 101 FAMILY  
TACKLES CANCER AND  
BRINGS SUNSHINE  
TO OTHERS*

*LOCAL 101'S NEW  
PRESIDENT TALKS  
ABOUT 2017 AND BEYOND*





# Constance's Corner

By Local 101 President Constance Bradley

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

It's been a busy start to the New Year, and I want to take a few minutes to bring you up to speed.

But first I want to again say how proud I am to be serving my first full term as your president. I believe we have assembled a team that will continue and expand upon the good works of our late Local 101 President Mike Conigliaro.

Our line-up includes the following top officers: Joseph Coscia, Vice President, Stephen Sipp, Financial Secretary-Treasurer, and Richard Diaczuk, Recording Secretary.

We also have four new Executive Board members: John DeMorato, John Nellis, Derrek Oliver, Coretta Jones and Philip Coiro.

Our longtime administrative assistant Angela Green will continue in her position.

In the first three-plus months of the year, my administration has been focused on making sure that management lives up to the letter – and the spirit – of the contracts Local 101 negotiated with National Grid and HomeServe.

It's critically important that we are aggressive and vigilant when it comes to management and our contracts. Executives at both companies must be reminded that they must stick to their word. They can't unilaterally impose new work rules or costs on Local 101 members and their families.

As anyone who knows me will tell you, I'm willing to partner with management. I want to partner with management. Together we can ensure a good quality of life and a safe workplace environment for our members at National Grid

and HomeServe.

But I absolutely will not sit back and let management abuse its authority. I will resist any effort on management's part to take advantage of Local 101 members.

That's why we have continued to forge ahead with a federal lawsuit over wages that the union filed last summer against HomeServe. These workers lack parking at home. So, they must retrieve a HomeServe van from the Queens facility and then drive to their first assignment. Likewise, they have to return their vans to the company location at the end of their day.

HomeServe refused to pay the technicians for the travel time which averaged between five and 10 hours a week. That's a violation of both federal and state law.

Speaking of laws, I was pleased to be present when Mayor de Blasio

signed a series of laws that tighten regulations regarding gas utilities and contractors, an issue I worked hard on along with our beloved late President Mike Conigliaro. One of the measures we successfully advocated for requires city agencies seek input from labor unions when it comes to matters involving the gas-delivery network and utilities.

We will continue this level of vigilance in representing you.

Finally, I'd like to announce that this year's summer picnic will be held on Aug. 19. Don't forget to register in advance. You will find a registration form in this newsletter.

The picnic is a great opportunity to gather, relax and fun with friends and family.

I look forward to seeing you there.

- Constance



# A FEW WORDS *from*

# Joe

*Local 101 Vice President Joe Coscia*



This is going to be a couple of challenging years - for TWU Local 101 and for myself – but I'm confident as we move forward.

For one thing, we have the very best employees. I've been here 36 years and one thing that hasn't changed is we have the very best. The company sometimes doesn't recognize that, but it's absolutely true, and we will keep reminding them of that fact whenever necessary.

Since my earliest time with the union, I've always fought to get more work done by in-house forces, instead of outside contractors. We have had success in that area, and I will continue to make that my top priority as your Vice President.

We can compete against the private companies on every level, including productivity and safety. We know this business like no one else because we consider this our career, not just a job to do for a season or two, or for a just few years, before moving on to something else.

We are professional and that's why I believe we can successfully grab more work and jobs from the company.

It's a challenge but it's something that we can tackle. We can move forward in a better position with a bigger, thus stronger, union.

Another challenge is contending with the new, more rigorous Operations Qualifications testing that has been imposed on utility workers

across the region and country. We have a long road ahead on this. We are battling management as they try and impose discipline or punitive restrictions on members who don't pass the test on their first attempts.

Our goal is to keep members in their titles without any losses of income.

One step we are taking is helping members be better prepared for the exam. Experienced Local 101 members are now out in the field giving some tutoring to co-workers.

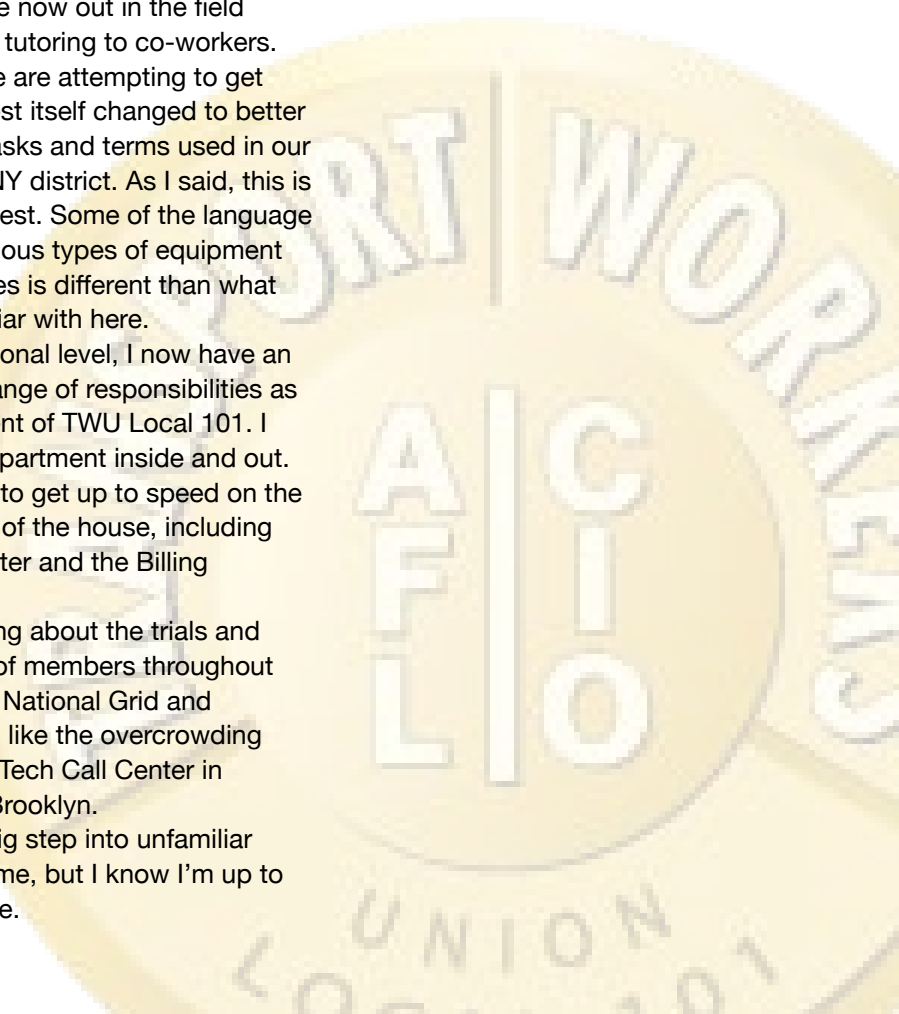
Finally, we are attempting to get the actual test itself changed to better reflect the tasks and terms used in our downstate NY district. As I said, this is nationwide test. Some of the language used for various types of equipment or procedures is different than what we are familiar with here.

On a personal level, I now have an expanded range of responsibilities as Vice President of TWU Local 101. I know my department inside and out. Now, I have to get up to speed on the clerical side of the house, including the Call Center and the Billing Department.

I'm learning about the trials and tribulations of members throughout our ranks at National Grid and HomeServe, like the overcrowding at the MetroTech Call Center in downtown Brooklyn.

This is a big step into unfamiliar territory for me, but I know I'm up to the challenge.

I also know that Local 101, if we continue to stand together, is up to whatever challenges that comes our way collectively.



# PRESIDENT BRADLEY SECURES THREE-YEAR TERM

COSCIA NAMED VICE PRESIDENT SIPP FINANCIAL SECRETARY DIACZUK RECORDING SECRETARY



Local 101 President Constance Bradley and her entire slate of officers were declared winners in the 2017 union-wide election.

The Elections Committee made the declaration by resolution on Feb. 23 because Bradley and her team faced no opposition. There was no need to distribute ballots, the committee determined.

“I’m extremely excited about this opportunity to serve a full three-year term, and I’m very proud to lead the membership at both

National Grid and HomeServe,” Bradley said. “One of my top priorities will be to continue Local 101’s growth by securing more work and jobs from the two companies. I want to build a bigger and stronger union while ensuring management adheres to the contracts we negotiated in good faith.”

Vice President Joseph Coscia also said expansion was a top priority.

“I believe in union workers,” Coscia said. “Local 101 has some of the best workers in the industry, and my goal is to take more work back from the contractors and put on more in-house crews. That’s my goal.”

Bradley was elevated from Vice President to Pres-

ident after the sudden death last year of President Mike Conigliaro. The beloved Conigliaro, 58, passed away in his Staten Island home of an apparent heart attack on Nov. 1.

Local 101 will establish a scholarship in Mike’s name, Bradley announced. The recipient, who will

be chosen by lottery and is open to the children of Local 101 members, will receive \$1,200 a year for four years to defray the cost of a higher

education, she said.

“That was one of Mike’s passions: encouraging and helping people go to college,” Bradley said. “He talked a lot about Local 101 one day offering its own scholarship. Now, we will. We want to this for him.”

Two other utility veterans with decades of union experience secured top leadership posts: Stephen Sipp, Financial-Secretary; and Richard Diazcuk, Recording Secretary.

Local 101 currently has about 1,650 members.

***“I’m extremely excited about this opportunity to serve a full three-year term, and I’m very proud to lead the membership at both National Grid and HomeServe...”***



TWU International President and Local 100 President John Samuelsen presided over a swearing-in ceremony for Local 101 President Constance Bradley and the union's top officers, including the Executive Board.

The event took place at Michael's Restaurant on Thursday, April 13. Jerome Lafragola, International VP and Director of the Transit, Universities, Utilities, and Services Division, also attended.



# Your Local 101 Officers



**Constance Bradley**  
President

Constance has steadily risen through the ranks since starting with the former Brooklyn Union Gas Co. in 1993 as a Customer Service Helper out of Canarsie. In less than two years, Constance moved up to Meter Reader and then Call Center Representative at MetroTech.

She became an assistant to the Local 101 president in 2002 and then a shop steward. The membership elected Constance delegate in 2003, Executive Board member in 2007 and Recording Secretary in 2012.

Her strong work ethic and commitment to the membership propelled Constance further upward. She was elected Recording Secretary in 2012 and Secretary- Treasurer two years later.

Constance was an integral part of Local 101 President Mike Conigliaro's administration and was Mike's Vice President when he suddenly passed away in November.

Born and raised in Brooklyn, Constance graduated Boys and Girls High School. She then completed 2.5 years of college before going to work with Brooklyn Union.

Constance lives in East Stroudsburg, Pa., with her husband, Anthony Henry, and their sons: Dennis McEachern-Henry, 24, Anthony Henry, 19, Tyler Henry, 16, and Christian Henry, 11, daughter-in-law Miracle Henry and granddaughter, Saria Henry, just 7 months old.

An usher at the Poconos Community Church, Constance is active in charitable endeavors, including cooking meals and donating clothing to the homeless in Pennsylvania and Brooklyn.

Joe has a long history of involvement with Local 101, dating back to the early 1990s when he became a union delegate.

"The motivation was outside contractors taking a lot of our work," he said. "It's an issue I've been involved with ever since."

A Crew Leader out of Greenpoint, Joe, 59, also has served as Recording Secretary and member of the Executive Board. He learned the importance of being in a union growing up from his family. His father and four uncles were truck drivers and Teamsters.

"I grew up seeing the value of being in a union – job security, benefits - and having a union behind you," Joe said.

Born and raised in Brooklyn, Joe graduated South Shore High School in Canarsie. He worked in construction and as a butcher before starting with the former Brooklyn Union Gas win 1981.

A self-described "old car buff," Joe likes to restore classics in his spare time. He has a 1970 Corvette, a 1970 Chevy Chevelle and a 1960 Camaro.

Joe and his wife, Lorraine, live in Staten Island. They have three children: Joseph, 30; Christina, 29; and Dana, 25.



**Joe Coscia**  
Vice President

A National Grid Crew Leader out of Canarsie, Stephen, 45, served on Local 101's Executive Board for approximately six years before being elevated to the Financial-Secretary post.

Prior to joining the E-board, Stephen was a delegate. "I like helping people," he said. "If someone comes to me with an issue or a problem, I always try and get it done as soon as I can."

Born and raised in Staten Island, Sipp graduated Tottenville High School. He joined the company as a Helper when he was 18 years old. During his career, Stephen has worked as a Helper, Operator and Mechanic before becoming Crew Leader.

A main focus over the next three years will be to continue Local 101's membership growth by prodding National Grid to boost the in-house workload and workforce, Sipp said.

When away from work, he likes to tackle home improvement projects.

Sipp and his wife, Denise, live in Staten Island. They have four children: Billy Martin, 33; Erica Martin, 30; Stephen Sipp and Angel Sipp, both 17.



**Stephen Sipp**  
Financial-Secretary

An Industrial Technician out of Canarsie, Richard has been in the utility business for nearly four decades, starting in 1980 when the former Brooklyn Union Gas company hired him as a Helper. His jobs over the years have included changing gas meters, handling gas leaks, and repairing appliances like gas ranges and dryers, which were dubbed "white goods."

Before becoming Recording Secretary, Richard, 56, was on the Executive Board and a delegate – for a decade.

"I like to help people and I wanted to make sure the union members were treated fairly and with the respect they deserve from management," Richard said about his decision to get involved in union matters. "I felt that I could make a difference."

Born and raised in Brooklyn, Richard graduated Lefferts Jr. High School.

His number-one hobby: repairing, restoring and driving his 1956 Chevy Bell Air and custom Harley Davidson motorcycle. The Chevy is built for speed with a powerful engine, big racing wheels and eye-catching red-and-white paint job.

"It's a pretty car," he said. "It's not a car you see everyday."

Richard and his wife, Carol, live in Brooklyn. They have two children: Nicole, 27, and Christina, 23.



**Richard Diaczuk**  
Recording Secretary

## THE EXECUTIVE BOARD



# EXECUTIVE BOARD



**John DeMorato**  
Executive Board

A Master Technician with HomeServe in Brooklyn and Queens, John is starting his second term on Local 101's Executive Board. He's been on the job 19 years and active in union affairs for approximately a decade. He was encouraged by co-workers to run for delegate around the time that National Grid sold its service contracts to HomeServe, which raised a slew of contractual and work-rule issues that needed to be hammered out and resolved both during and after the legal transaction of ownership.

"The members in my shop wanted me to run because they know I care about them," DeMorato said.

John played a key role in securing the latest HomeServe contract with Local 101: a 4-year deal with raises of 3% a year, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and other improvements.

"It's job security for the membership and keeps them ahead of the cost of living increases," he said.

Born and raised in Brooklyn, DeMorato graduated James Madison High School. In addition to his volunteer position at Local 101, John is an active member and officer with Knights of Columbus charitable organization.

A Customer Service Team Leader at MetroTech in downtown Brooklyn, Coretta has been on the job for 24 years and has served as a union delegate. In addition to being a new member of the Executive Board, Coretta, 47, recently became Women's Committee Chairwoman.

She has set several goals for herself in those roles, including: inspiring other women members to take leadership positions; developing and implementing programs for women to advance personally and professionally; and increasing the number of women in jobs traditionally dominated by men.

Coretta wants to "advocate, deliver and execute on issues affecting the women in my union," she said. "Women are the backbone of many of our households and the ribs that help hold our organization together."

Jones recently was instrumental in forming the Local 101 women's softball team to compete against Local 100's squad at Local 100's Family Day in Coney Island this summer.

Born in Trenton, N.J., Coretta lived in Brooklyn for many years before moving to East Stroudsburg, Pa., in 2014.

She is the mother of three daughters: Summer Arnold, 14; Chanel Arnold, 25; and the late Iquia Arnold.



**Coretta Jones**  
Executive Board



**John B. Nellis Jr.**  
Executive Board

John, 54, works as the Instrumentation and Regulation Field Assessor for National Grid's downstate region, part of the pro-active pipeline safety program. The goal is to detect and correct any violations in the field before management or the Public Service Commission does, and to help Local 101 members comply with the rules and regulations.

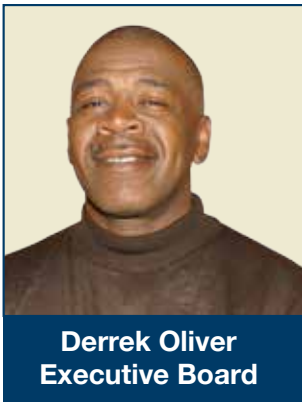
On the job since 1982, Nellis was a Local 101 shop steward earlier in his career, and was site coordinator for one of the greatest demolition jobs in recent memory: the Maspeth Holder Implosion on July 15th, 2001. The two 400-foot-tall tanks that dominated the skyline came down in about seven seconds.

John is a second-generation utility worker. His father, John Nellis Sr., was a Customer Service Supervisor with Brooklyn Union Gas. His older brother, Teddy, is a Construction Inspector with National Grid.

John was born and raised in Brooklyn and is a graduate of William E. Grady High School. He is a huge Giants fan and an avid fisherman – he owns a charter boat.

John lives in Brooklyn with his wife, Elizabeth.





**Derrek Oliver**  
Executive Board

A plate truck Operator out of Canarsie for the past decade, Oliver has worn many different hats during his 31-year utility career.

He started out pumping gas at Greenpoint in 1985 before switching to Chauffeur, Chauffeur Coordinator and Security Guard. His extensive history with the company, and relationships up and down the ranks, made him a valuable asset to former Local 101 President Mike Conigliaro. The beloved Conigliaro passed away suddenly last year.

Mike said, “ ‘You’re always trying to help people anyway, so let’s make it official,’ ” Derrek recalled. “For Mike to ask me was an honor.”

Born and raised in Brooklyn, Derrek graduated Boys and Girls High School. He was a standout athlete. When he was `16 years old, Derrek’s Youth Service baseball team made it to the national Mickey Mantle World Series tournament and he generated some interest from big league scouts.

Derrek is far from the only Oliver to work for National Grid or its predecessor companies. His late father and a late brother also worked the job. His son, Dwight, started in November.

Derrek and his wife, Julie, have six children: Donque, 33; Derrek Jr., 31; Shantaisa, 27; Dwight, 26; Devonte, 21; and Juliesa, 19.

Phil, 54, is a National Grid Safety Advocate. His duties include ensuring that all construction and maintenance safety procedures are being followed, and that management is providing the proper safety equipment to Local 101 members.

“When people don’t get hurt, and are able to come to work every day, it’s very rewarding,” he said.

He started his utility career as a Helper in the Distribution Department 27 years ago. Phil then worked his way up the ranks to Mechanic and then Crew Leader before obtaining his current title. He also has risen through the ranks of Local 101, serving first as a delegate and then shop steward before becoming a member of the Executive Board.


Born and raised in the Bronx, Phil has deep TWU roots. One of his grandfathers was a subway Station Agent and TWU Local 100 member.

“He was a TWU guy for years,” Phil said. “When Mike Quill spoke, everybody had to be quiet.”

Phil and his wife, Jean, live in Long Island. They have two daughters, Nicolette, 22, and Jenna, 20.



**Phil Coiro**  
Executive Board



# Little Cancer Survivor

# is a Big Source of **INSPIRATION** and **PRIDE**



**L**ocal 101 member Scott Sojak and his wife, Lucy, don't have to look far for their source of inspiration. It's their 13-year-old son, Michael.

"He's our hero," Scott said of the young teenager. "We're just so proud of him. He's such a competitor."

Michael spent the first 18 months of his life mostly in hospitals, including Memorial Sloan Kettering Hospital, where he was treated for liver cancer. He underwent two major surgeries before his second birthday.

Today, Michael gets good grades in school, and plays sports year round: baseball, basketball and flag football. He does everything "with hustle and heart," Scott, an Operator at National Grid's LNG facility in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, said. Michael – who has been cancer free for more than a decade - also helps raise funds for Camp Sunshine, which provides a much-needed respite to kids with life-threatening illnesses and their parents.

"It helps kids and parents get their minds off everything so they can have a good time," he said.



On Saturday, March 11, Michael took a plunge into the frigid Atlantic Ocean in Amityville, Long Island, along with other good-hearted and brave souls taking part in the regional “Polar Bear” fundraising event for Camp Sunshine.

It was his third time participating in the event.

“It was so cold,” Michael said. “My feet were freezing. I just went in and got right back out.”

In September, Michael and his family also go to Washington, D.C., for the annual Curefest for Childhood Cancer. The event includes a candle-lit vigil and rally for increased government funding for cancer-drug research.

Camp Sunshine occupies 25-acre campus on Sebago Lake in Casco, Maine. It offers an extensive array of recreational opportunities and activities, along with counseling and

**“We go there to give back, and to give other families hope”**

group workshops. Camp Sunshine, which is open all year, is free.

The Sojaks first went to the camp when Michael was 3 years old and in remission. They returned a few times as guests, and returned more times as volunteers.

“We go there to give back, and to give other families hope,” Scott said. “We can say, ‘Look at us. We were here. We were in the same situation. You can get through this.’ ”

Michael is the living proof. “He’s thriving,” Scott said.





*TWM Local LO's*



*Holiday Party*



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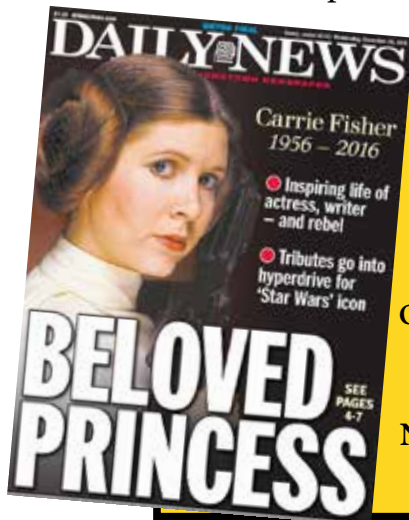


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## TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION AFL-CIO

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*President*

Joseph Coscia  
*Vice President*

Stephen Sipp  
*Financial Secretary-Treasurer*

Richard Diaczuk  
*Recording Secretary*



TWU Local 101  
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718-745-7597

## NOTICE OF REMAINING SECTION MEETINGS FOR 2017

**ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND**

**MAY 18**

**OCTOBER 19**

**June-Aug Recess**

**NOVEMBER 16**

**SEPTEMBER 21**

**DECEMBER 21**

All meetings are on a Thursday. No meetings in July, June or August

**ALL DELEGATES AND SHOP STEWARDS MUST ATTEND**

**LOCATION: KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
1305 86TH STREET, BROOKLYN, NY 11278  
TIME: 6 PM SHARP**



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**ALL DELEGATES  
AND SHOP STEWARDS  
MUST ATTEND**



## TWU LOCAL 101

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*President*

**Joe Coscia**  
*Vice President*

**Stephen Sipp**  
*Financial  
Secretary-Treasurer*

**Richard Diaczuk**  
*Recording Secretary*

**Executive Board**  
*John De Morato  
Derrek Oliver  
John Nellis  
Coretta Jones  
Phil Coiro*

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