



# 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)



**There comes a time in all of our lives when we need a little help. Sooner or later, we all get knocked down or dazed by life's challenges. Fortunately, Local 101 members are never alone.**

The men and women of TWU Local 101 always step up to help when a co-worker suffers an injury or become seriously ill. Time and time again, Local 101 rallies like one big family, demonstrating the union's compassion – and strength.

**Two recent cases come to mind.**

Brian Massaro, a National Grid employee for 11 years, who works in the BPI department, was stricken by Guillan-Barre syndrome, a disease that damages the nervous system and causes life-threatening muscle weakness. He didn't have enough sick days to keep getting paid by National Grid until his long-term disability payments kicked in.

So, Local 101 members donated 45 of their unused vacation days. That ensured Massaro, the father of three young children, could still pay his bills and put food on the table at home.

National Grid mechanic Sean Mceachin and his 16-year-old brother were walking to the store in Brooklyn when they were hit by stray bullets. Mceachin was shot in the leg. His brother was shot in the stomach.

Local 101 members donated 10 vacation days to Mceachin. They also donated seven days to his mother, Taisha Lawrence, a union delegate in our call center, so she could be with her wounded boys.

Identifying those Local 101 members who could benefit from "time" donations is one of my top priorities as president. I regularly ask Local 101 officers and National Grid

supervisors for the names of employees who are expected to be out for extended periods of time. I then facilitate with National Grid's Human Resources department the transfer of vacation days.

The response and eagerness to help is nothing short of astounding. It should be a source of pride for all of us in Local 101.

There's another reason to be proud: Local 101 is growing. Membership has risen by about 100 with new hires "off the street." That's because National Grid has increased the number of pipe replacement projects planned for 2016. The company also is ramping up to meet higher demand resulting from new construction and continued redevelopment in Brooklyn and Queens.

Local 101's committees, meanwhile, continue to grow in strength and scope of activities. The Women's Committee held it's first "Pink Day" craft fair in October and raised \$2,300 to support breast cancer research. The Veterans Committee, meanwhile, hosted our first luncheons for our members who served in the military at three different locations: MetroTech, Greenpoint and Canarsie in November.

I'd also like to thank National Grid manager Derrick Smith for all of his help making the veterans' tribute possible.

In closing, I would personally like to thank all of our members for their continuous support throughout the year, and for the hard work they do every day. I also would like to thank the union members who help run our committees, and the members who pitch in and participate. Some of our most important meetings are the monthly section meetings. The attendance numbers show me that we are all in this together as one union - with one voice.

Finally, I'd like to wish our members a Merry Christmas, a Happy Holiday season, and Healthy, Happy New Year.

*President Michael Conigliaro*

**Special thanks to the generous Local 101 members who donated vacation days to help Brian Massaro, Sean Mceachin, and their families:** Jerry McCoy, Frank Novello, Donald Preus, Robert Anderson, Stephen Sipp, Joseph Scalia, Carter Mackey, Peter Farina, Joey Calderon, John Kersten, Michael McGrade, Michael Wheeler and Rogelio Williams.



Summer Picnic photos inside

# A Special Thank You to the Members of Local 101



First and foremost, I would like to thank my members for all the support and congratulations they expressed during my first year as Secretary-Treasurer.

The position comes with a lot of financial responsibilities, including making sure all expenses are paid, such as rent, electric, printing bills, attorney fees and arbitration fees. We have 1,600 members working for National Grid in

Brooklyn and Queens. I also make sure union dues are paid and the one-time initiation fee is collected from new workers. I also go out to the field to meet and greet new members, welcoming them to Local 101 and educating them about the importance of being organized, especially in this day and age when unions so often are under attack. My other responsibilities include meeting with management, attending safety meetings in the zones, arbitrations – and assisting members with any problems or concerns they have on or off the job. Finally, I oversee the Women's Committee, and maintain and

update Local 101's website. Being part of this great union is hard work. We are on call 24/7. But I love my job and the members we represent. We are like a family. We are there for the good times, such as our annual picnic, which was a great success again this year. We also are there for the hard times, like funerals and hospital stays. Anytime anyone needs to talk, all they have to do is pick up the phone and call. Again, thank you all for your good wishes. I'm looking forward to serving you in the New Year and for many years to come.

Your Secretary-Treasurer,  
Constance Bradley.

**Richard Diaczuk has your back.**

## Richard Diaczuk has your back.

The Local 101 Executive Board unanimously voted to have Diaczuk, a veteran National Grid employee and longtime union delegate, fill an empty seat on the panel.



“Richard is a great guy,” Local 101 President Mike Conigliaro said. “He’s been a very effective delegate and I’m sure, with all of his experience, he will be a great Executive Board member.”

A married father of two adult daughters, Diaczuk lives in Windsor Terrace, Brooklyn. Outside of work and the union, his hobbies include classic cars and motorcycles. He has a red and white 1956 Chevrolet Bel Air, a classic muscle-car model that can be seen in movies like *Jersey Boys*, *A Bronx Tale* and *Peggy Sue Got Married*. He also owns a 1996 Harley-Davidson Custom 1200.

“With my knowledge of the company and their practices and work SOPs, I feel I can do a good job assisting the service persons when they have problems,” Diaczuk said. “New managers sometimes don’t know the rules. A guy with 35 years seniority knows the rules better than they do.”

The Executive Board selected Diaczuk to replace Steven Mauro, who retired from National Grid in September.

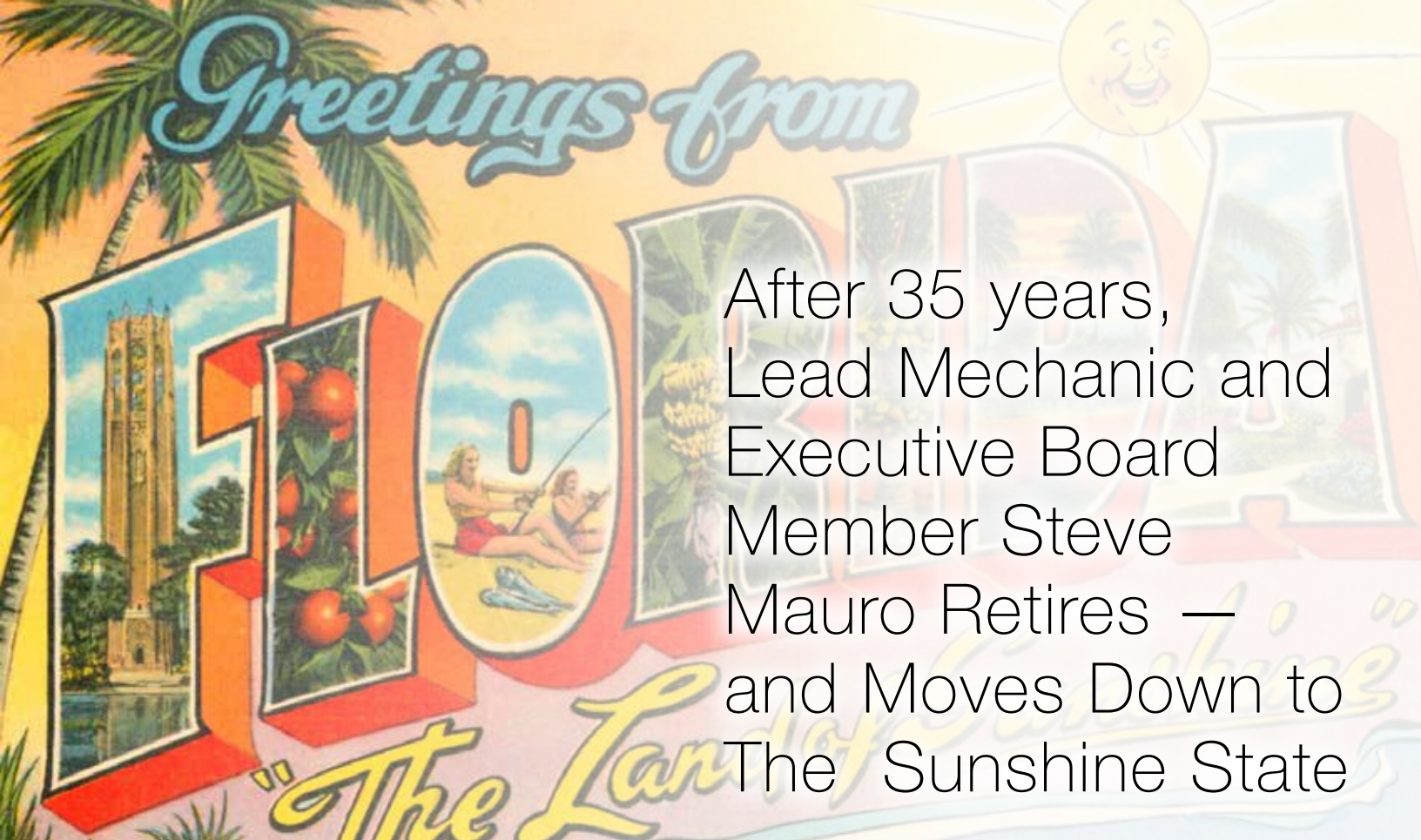
## BETTER PAYBACK PLAN SECURED FOR LOCAL 101 MEMBERS

**Local 101 won** a grievance against National Grid - and secured a more reasonable repayment plan for members.

Starting in January, National Grid will deduct 10% of workers' weekly earnings. The company had been taking 12.5% of weekly income to recoup overpayments.

National Grid agreed to the lower percentage only after Local 101 filed a contract grievance and brought a case to an arbitrator, Local 101 President Mike Conigliaro said.

“They unilaterally crafted and imposed a recoupment schedule without consulting the union at all,” Conigliaro said. “I thought it was too high and challenged them. In the end, we won and I think justice was served.”



# After 35 years, Lead Mechanic and Executive Board Member Steve Mauro Retires — and Moves Down to The Sunshine State



## Gone fishing.

After 35 years on the job, Local 101 Executive Board member Steve Mauro

has retired and moved to Florida with his wife, Susan.

“I’m a big fisherman,” he said. “I’m going to get a boat.”

Mauro started out in 1980 as a Helper with National Grid’s predecessor, Brooklyn Union, assisting mechanics with gas leaks, meter installations and boiler issues.

Working largely in the Canarsie area of Brooklyn, Mauro rose through the ranks to Lead Mechanic. He became a union delegate in 1999 and was

elected to the Executive Board about a decade ago.

He wasn’t the first family member in the business. His father, who passed away in September, was a retired foreman who spent four decades with the company.

If there’s one memory or experience that stands out the most during Mauro’s long career, it’s a relatively recent one – Hurricane Sandy. He and other Local 101 members were in the Rockaways the next day and worked 12-hour shifts on the storm-ravaged peninsula for about a month, he said.

“The area was destroyed,” Mauro said. “It was bad. There were a lot of structural problems. There were abandoned cars all over the place. Buildings that were burned down.”

The top priority was shutting off the gas to prevent an explosion resulting from any ruptured lines, he said.

“We were going house to house,” he said. “There were a lot of people in the streets. People were trying to get their homes cleaned up.” Like many TWU workers who spent many days helping others get back on their feet and back to work after Sandy, Mauro had problems at home as well. Sandy dumped three feet of water in the basement of his Oceanside house.

But that’s all in the past. Mauro is starting a new stage of his life in the Sunshine State. “I’m going to miss the guys, my co-workers. Well, most of them,” he said with a laugh.

**“...There were abandoned cars all over the place. Buildings that were burned down.”**

# LOCAL 101 GOES PINK FOR BREAST CANCER AWARENESS



The TWU Local 101 Women's Committee raised \$2,300 for breast cancer research with a craft fair at National Grid's Canarsie Yard.

The event on Saturday, Oct. 17, featured 20 vendors and exhibitors – more than half of them Local 101 members selling a range of items, including knitted blankets and Teddy Bears, dresses, homemade soaps and lotions, costume jewelry, baked goods, Soul Food and Caribbean dishes.

Local 101 also printed and sold "Pink Day" t-shirts and the committee held a raffle with winners receiving Coach designer handbags.

"It was a great day and a great turnout," Women's Committee Chairwoman Rea Plummer said. "We hope to do it again and make it an annual event."

The proceeds will be donated to the American Cancer Society to support cancer research, Plummer said. October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month.



# LOCAL 101 VETERANS COMMITTEE GROWING AND ACTIVE ON MANY FRONTS



## THE TWU LOCAL 101 VETERANS COMMITTEE IS OFF TO A FAST START.

Approximately 40 former servicemen and servicewomen who are now working for National Grid have registered with the committee, and their ranks continue to grow.

“It’s spreading,” Veterans Committee Co-Chair Yvonne Bailey, said. “Many more are joining as we speak. Word of mouth is bringing more and more brothers and sisters to the committee.”

On Nov. 10th, the committee, which is just one year old, held “Heroes for Heroes” events the day before Veterans Day.

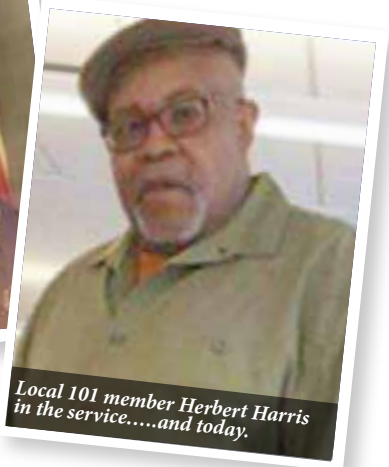
Lunch was served at three locations to active Local 101 members who were in the military: MetroTech, the Canarsie auditorium and the Greenpoint auditorium. “It’s an opportunity for our members and management to say thank you to

our veterans, and to let them know that their sacrifice means a lot to many of us,” Bailey, a National Grid customer service representative and a Local 101 delegate, said.

In another project that’s underway, the committee is collecting recent photographs of members and older photos from when they were in the military. Members will receive a small framed poster with the two “before and after” photos, Bailey said.

The committee is chaired by Minerva Rivera with Eric King serving as the other co-chair.

It has several missions. The organization wants to recognize veterans and connect them with all available benefits and services. It also strives to help those still serving in the military.



Local 101 member Herbert Harris in the service.....and today.

Working through Any Soldier, a non-profit founded by a soldier serving in Iraq and his parents, the Local 101 Veterans Committee sent care packages to two troops in Afghanistan. It also has begun gathering furniture, clothes and other items for a Queens’ organization assisting homeless veterans get back on their feet.

“There’s a lot of caring hearts in Local 101,” Bailey said. “It’s amazing how much they’ve stepped up.”



# Local 101 Utility Division

TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION of AMERICA  
AFL-CIO

**Michael Conigliaro**  
*President*

**Josephine Arroyo**  
*Vice President*

**Constance Bradley**  
*Financial Secretary-Treasurer*

**Joseph Coscia**  
*Recording Secretary*



**TWU Local 101**  
**195 Montague Street**  
**3rd Floor**  
**Brooklyn, NY 11201**  
**(718) 745-7597**

## NOTICE OF SECTION MEETINGS FOR 2015-2016

**ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND**

**THURSDAY - SEPTEMBER 17**

**THURSDAY - MARCH 17**

**THURSDAY - OCTOBER 15**

**THURSDAY - APRIL 21**

**THURSDAY - NOVEMBER 19**

**THURSDAY - MAY 19**

**THURSDAY - DECEMBER 17**

**JUNE - MEETING RECESSED**

**THURSDAY - JANUARY 21**

**JULY - MEETING RECESSED**

**THURSDAY - FEBRUARY 18**

**AUGUST - MEETING RECESSED**

**LOCATION: KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**  
**1305 86TH STREET**  
**BROOKLYN, NY 11228**  
**TIME: 6 PM SHARP**

**ALL DELEGATES AND SHOP STEWARDS MUST ATTEND**

**THIS NOTICE TO BE POSTED ON ALL UNION BULLETIN BOARDS.**



# BROOKLYN ROCKED BY DEADLY EXPLOSION



Dominick D’Onofrio’s shift was winding down when his phone – and those of his co-workers also were in the Canarsie Yard – started beeping with incoming alerts about a reported gas explosion in the Borough Park section of Brooklyn. All maintenance trucks and field personnel were directed to respond.

D’Onofrio, 42, donned his fire-resistant overalls, jumped behind the wheel of his crew’s truck and headed towards the address with other Local 101 members.

The alerts and updates kept coming. The building collapsed. One person believed dead. Several people injured. “That’s when I realized this was the real deal, something major was going on,” D’Onofrio said. “It was just a regular Saturday afternoon. A quiet day. And the next thing you know, a building exploded and the chaos began.”

For D’Onofrio and his Local 101 brothers and sisters, the sound of an alarm isn’t time to panic.

“That’s when your expertise and training kicks in. I started to think of the different possible scenarios and what we would have to do for our safety and the first responders’ safety.”

The other Local 101 members heading to the scene were Ruben Eastman, Rawle Boston, Farook Baccus, Gwain Young, Ian Best and Blaine Gressom.

The October explosion erupted in a three-story apartment building on 13<sup>th</sup> Ave. The force knocked off the entire facade, which crashed to the street in bits and pieces. Flames engulfed the remaining structure from the stoop to the roof. Thick smoke filled the block. “It was so black that you couldn’t see

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**“It was just a regular Saturday afternoon. A quiet day. And the next thing you know, a building exploded and the chaos began.”**

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in front of your face,” Susan Ortiz, 54, a nearby resident, said. “You couldn’t breathe, couldn’t see. My eyes were just burning. It was black as night.” First responders, and workers from every possible utility and agency, descended on the block off 42<sup>nd</sup> St.

“There were hundreds of flashing lights,” D’Onofrio said. “There were firefighters all over. EMS. DEP. Con Ed. Office of Emergency Management.”

There was a helicopter hovering overhead, news camera crews on the corners and I’m just thinking, ‘Oh my God. I hope no one is dead. I hope no one is hurt.’” The force of the explosion led first responders to believe that it was caused by a gas leak.

While firefighters were still putting water on remaining flames and smoldering rubble, Local 101 members, about 50 feet from the blast site, turned off the gas to the building. They then turned off the flow of gas to adjacent buildings so fire and rescue crews could continue their job without fear of a secondary explosion.

When the smoke cleared, officials said two people were killed while 13 suffered injuries. Months later, investigators determined the blast was have intentionally sparked by a tenant who was being evicted; she doused her apartment with gasoline to fuel the inferno, authorities said.

“This wasn’t a natural-gas explosion but it was a deadly explosion nonetheless, and Local 101 members were right there taking action,” Local 101 President Mike Conigliaro said.



**Local 101's Annual Picnic | Floyd Bennet Field | Brooklyn, NY**  
**800 Members and their families — Nearly 1,000 total turn out for festivities**









# TWU LOCAL 101'S HOLIDAY CHEER CELEBRATION

**Happy Holidays!**

Local 101's leadership is proud of your work & appreciative of your support throughout the year.

Join us for Hot food, drinks & dancing with our very own DJ Danny Gee!

**Date: Thursday, December 17th**

**Time: 5:30 – 10:30PM**

**Knights of Columbus Hall**

**1305 86th Street**

**Brooklyn, NY**



# GOING FOR THE GOLD

Aureliano Sosa, a mechanic from Sunset Park, Brooklyn, is going for gold. Olympic gold.

Sosa, 46, hung up his boxing gloves decades ago. But he spends most of his spare time coaching young fighters in Brooklyn – and four of them secured spots at the United States 2016 Olympic Team Boxing Trials. “I couldn’t have done it without him,” said Nick Scaturchio, 17, one of the Olympic hopefuls.

“To me, he’s the best in the world.”

To get to the trials, each of Sosa’s boxers had to finish first or second at one of five regional qualifying tournaments held earlier this year. Each tournament drew hundreds of the best fighters in the country.

The fighters were heading to the Olympic trials in Reno, Nevada, as Burning Bright was going to press in early December. Local 101 was picking up the tab for some of Sosa’s expenses, Local 101 President Mike Conigliaro said.

“All of us are proud of what Aureliano and his boxers have achieved so far,” Conigliaro said. “We’re more than happy to help them out. It’s an amazing opportunity.”

Boxing has been an integral part of Sosa’s life for almost as long as he can remember. Sosa was eight years old growing up in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, when his father took Sosa and his six brothers to a gym. It was located over a bar on Fifth Ave. in neighboring Park Slope. “The streets were pretty mean back then and my dad didn’t want us out on the streets,” Sosa said. “So he put us into the boxing world.” It worked.

Sosa boxed for 16 more years, battling in more than 150 amateur fights and securing a spot on the 1986 Mexican Olympic boxing team.

He represented Mexico in the Pan American Games in 1988, and fought a handful of professional bouts before retiring. “I just lost the love,” he said. “I just got burned out.”

He started working for National Grid in 2005. He’s now assigned to a unit that investigates building owners suspected of tinkering with the meter or other equipment in order to steal gas.



Olympic bound  
Richardson Hitchins

Sosa was on the job about a decade when his passion for the Sweet Science was reignited. His son, Julian, expressed an interest in boxing. Sosa was soon giving tips not only to Julian, who is now a professional fighter, but also to any other kid who sought his help.



Heading to the Olympic Trials. Left to right: Nkosi Solomon, super heavyweight; Nick Scaturchio, 108 pounds; Coach Aureliano Sosa; Richardson Hitchins, 141 pounds; Bruce Carrington, Jr., 132 pounds.



He has been the head coach of the Atlas Cops & Kids boxing program since 2009, and the gym on 34th St. in Flatbush is his home away from home.

“Sosa is a very unique individual,” said Brian Adams, a four-time Golden Gloves Champion who now runs the tournament as the New York Daily News’ director of community affairs. “Unique because he spends countless hours with young men and women of all races, and he treats them all as if they are his own. There is no favoritism when you walk through those gym doors. You see the athletes all respond to him by the success they have inside the ring.” Sosa also has a stable of professional fighters, including Chris “B-Hop” Colbert, Lenox Allen and Erick Bone.

“The love came back,” Sosa said. “They say everybody gets a calling in life. This is what I was born to do.”

# UNION SONS AND DAUGHTERS RECEIVE COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS FROM TWU INTERNATIONAL AND SPONSORS

Since 1969, the TWU International has awarded 15 four-year college scholarships each year to college-bound dependents of TWU members.

**Each award recipient receives \$1,200 annually, for a total of \$4,800 over the four-year college period.**

The idea for the scholarship program began at the thirteenth constitutional convention as a memorial to our first International President Michael J. Quill and other deceased members of our union.

This year's recipients represent some of the best and brightest students in the country, and we are thrilled to honor their educational achievements and helping to support their commitment to learning. Out of hundreds of applicants, this year's winners were selected by Executive Vice President John Samuelson, and TWU retiree Francine Albach drew the names.

The 2015 Michael J. Quill Scholarship winners in the Local 101 family are Andrew Preus, Kiara Jordan and Ryan Lupo.

Maria Cadet won a scholarship provided by Union Benefit Planners, a scholarship sponsor participating in the TWU program.



Andrew Preus, son of Don Preus, is attending St. Francis College in Brooklyn.



Kiara Jordan, daughter of Heather Finch, is going to Medgar Evers College



Ryan Lupo, Son of David Lupo, is studying at West Virginia University.



Maria Cadet, daughter of Dave Cadet, is attending Brookdale Community College.

# TWU Local 101 Women's Committee!



*Rea Plummer - Chair, Fereda Ali - Recording Secretary  
Louise Barnes, Chimere McCasling, Coretta Jones - Board Members*

## Meeting Schedule for 2015-2016

|              |                          |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| 12 pm - 2 pm | Saturday, September 26th |
| 6 pm - 8 pm  | Wednesday, October 21st  |
| 12 pm - 2 pm | Saturday, November 21st  |
| 12 pm - 2 pm | Saturday, December 19th  |
| 6 pm - 8 pm  | Wednesday, January 27th  |
| 6 pm - 8 pm  | Wednesday, February 10th |
| 12 pm - 2 pm | Saturday, March 26th     |
| 6 pm - 8 pm  | Wednesday, April 27th    |
| 12 pm - 2 pm | Saturday, May 21st       |
| 12 pm - 4 pm | Saturday, June 25th      |

**Meeting location: 195 Montague St.**

**3rd floor Brooklyn, NY 11201**

**(718) 745-7597**





*In Loving Memory of*  
**Martin P. Egan**  
January 8, 1964 -  
October 18, 2015

Martin P. Egan, a longtime Local 101 member and National Grid employee, died suddenly on Oct. 18.

A funeral mass for Egan, the father of two boys, was celebrated on Oct. 22 at St. Francis de Sales in Belle Harbor on the Rockaway Peninsula in Queens.

Condolences also were sent to Egan's grieving family and friends from places around the world, including: Galway, Ireland; Birmingham, England; Florida and Georgia.

"He was always warm, generous and pleasure to be around," former neighbors from Wantagh, Rob and Annette O'Shea, who now reside in Florida, said. "We miss him, and will always love Marty."

Born in Manhattan, Egan lived in the Rockways for the past two years after moving from Wantagh. He coached hockey with Apple Core Hockey in Long Beach and a member of the Knights of Columbus Monsignor Burke Council in Rockaway Beach.

In addition to his sons, Egan is survived by his mother, Elizabeth, siblings Sean and Kathleen, nephews Sean Jr. and Kieran, and a niece, Maraid.

His family requests donations be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 360 Lexington Ave., #5 NY, NY 10017.

Martin will be missed by all his Brothers and Sisters at Local 101

He will be sorely missed.

## **LOCAL 101 PROUNDLY INTRODUCES A NEW EDUCATIONAL BENEFIT FOR UNION FAMILIES**

“It is my pleasure to announce an important new on-line educational benefit - [tutor.com](http://tutor.com) - for TWU LOCAL 101’s families. As our children get older, it gets tougher and tougher to help them with their homework. This new benefit, provided totally free of charge to all Local 101 families, will prove to be a tremendous help to you and your children. Please check it out. You have nothing to lose and everything to gain.”

Mike Conigliaro, President, TWU Local 101



## **Anytime Academic Help for You and Your Family**

[tutor.com](http://tutor.com)

**Access for you and your family anytime, anywhere from any computer, tablet or mobile device!**



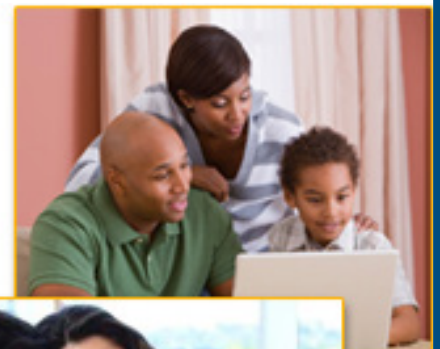
Personalized, live tutoring is now available for you and your children, K–College. **Five hours per month for each TWU member, completely free.**

*(Tutor.com charges \$2,160 per year for the same 5hr per month benefit that you and your family are getting, **AT NO COST.**)*

You and your family will now have access to the premier on-line educational website in the country – Tutor.com – as your newest union benefit.

**Students can work one-to-one in an online classroom with an expert tutor to:**

- Complete homework
- Understand concepts in all subjects
- Study for exams



**Immediate Access at: [www.tutor.com/twulocal101](http://www.tutor.com/twulocal101)**

Your Username will be your Employee Pass # or ID number



Brought to you by TWU Local 101  
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BROOKLYN, NY  
PERMIT No. 1690

## INTRODUCING LOCAL 101 REWARDS ENJOY! SAVE! WIN!

Exclusively for TWU Local 101 members and families.  
TWU Local 101 is excited to announce the launch of Local 101 Rewards, a brilliant new service for Local 101 members and their families. Enjoy awesome benefits, savings, and prizes from trusted partners who will go the extra mile for our members. Whether it's tickets to a game or special deal on a new car, look to Local 101 Rewards for something special every day.

Register FREE at [www.local101rewards.com](http://www.local101rewards.com) and get rewarded!

Meet Some of Our Partners:



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Local 101 Rewards is powered by Individual Digital, Inc.



# TWU LOCAL 101

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**Josephine Arroyo**  
*Vice President*

**Constance Bradley**  
*Financial Secretary-Treasurer*

**Joe Coscia**  
*Secretary-Treasurer*

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Stephen Sipp*

**Administrative Staff**  
*Angela Green*

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