

**Lay Faculty Association
Local 1261
Newsletter**

138-25 A 31 Drive/Flushing, New York 11354 (718) 5396440

WWW.LFA1261.ORG

April, 2021

The President's Message.....

Teachers

Bargaining Teams are now in place in our 7 schools that are up for contract renewals. Due to Covid issues and the uncertainties facing our schools in September, the Union is proposing to each school a salary increase for the faculty and leaving the contracts as they are until next spring when we will be able to negotiate with a better knowledge of where we stand. Once CDC guidelines are lifted or modified, we would be able to negotiate permanent changes into our contracts. It would not be beneficial to neither the schools nor the union to negotiate contracts with the present uncertainties that exist only to change them again next year.

I am pleased to announce that Mrs. Quiles and I were able to negotiate a small onetime bonus for the teachers at Nazareth High School. A Memorandum of Agreement is being drawn up to be presented soon to the Archbishop Molly faculty for ratification. We are very close to an agreement at St. John the Baptist and Holy Trinity.

Teachers, who are ready to retire and wish to apply for the LIUNA pension, must call the LIUNA office and request a Retirement Packet: **1 800 544 - 7422**. Once you receive the packet, please call the LFA office for assistance to complete the necessary forms in the packet. I will gladly make an appointment to meet with you.

The LFA office is presently undergoing a routine LIUNA Audit. All seems to be going well at this moment.

Retirees

The retirees who initially paid a full year of medical payments, as we were directed to do in the summer, may need to request a refund if the MTDCTF medical package was dropped in January. The LFA cannot help you in this matter. Please contact the MTDCTF office directly: **1 212 452 - 9700**.

Be well and be safe!

Sincerely,

Ciro A. Quattrocchi

LFA Local 1261 President & Business Manager

Congratulations to Nazareth High School's President and Principal Providencia Quiles for being awarded the Lead. Learn. Proclaim (LLP) Award by the National Catholic Education Association (NCEA) as an outstanding leader in Catholic Education.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Rockville Centre has sold its headquarters for \$5.2 million in a move that was approved by U.S. Bankruptcy Court, church officials said. The diocese, one of the largest in the nation and home to 1.4 million Catholics in the Long Island region, declared bankruptcy last year as it faced numerous lawsuits under New York State's Child Victims Act.

Cooking with Jerry Franza

Italian Cream Cheese Knot Cookies



Ingredients: 5 eggs, 1 stick of butter, 1 cup of sugar, 5 tbsp. baking powder, 8 oz. pkg, cream cheese, 5 cups of flower and 4 to 5 tsp. vanilla

Blend the cream cheese and butter; add the sugar and vanilla, add the eggs, baking powder and flower. Refrigerate the dough for one hour. Roll pieces and form knots. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes on ungreased cookie sheet.



Icing for the cookies: When cookies are cool, mix confectionery sugar and boiling water into a smooth glaze and drizzle over cookies. Sprinkle with color jimmies.

Pandemic Relief and Multi-Employer Pension Protection

Washington, D.C. (March 10, 2021) – Terry O’Sullivan, General President of LIUNA – the Laborers’ International Union of North America – made the following statement today on the American Rescue Plan:

LIUNA retirees, beneficiaries, and members owe a debt of gratitude to President Biden, Speaker Pelosi, and Senate Democratic Leader Schumer for not only enacting a robust pandemic relief bill but also for protecting our members’ retirement security. The legislation provides critically needed COVID relief to protect people who are working and those who have lost their jobs, and a life-saving transfusion of federal investment for union members’ multi-employer pensions.

Provisions in this relief bill will provide necessary federal assistance and ensure that millions of retirees – including thousands of LIUNA retirees – and beneficiaries will still receive their full pensions and be able to retire in dignity after a lifetime of hard work.

Source: LIUNA email

Unfortunately, this helpful legislation has become law too late for those of our LFA members who had their pension reduced due to school closings.

Retirees Reminder

If in the second half of 2020 you paid a **full annual rate** for Mason Tenders medical coverage, but you dropped the plan when the new rates went into effect on Jan 1, 2021 you may be entitled to a partial refund. Please contact Esther Chiarra at Mason Tenders for more information: 212-452-9700. Only MTDCWF (not the LFA) is able to determine if and how much money you could get back.”

As you may notice, school news has been sparse during Covid, with little news posted on school websites. Be well and safe.