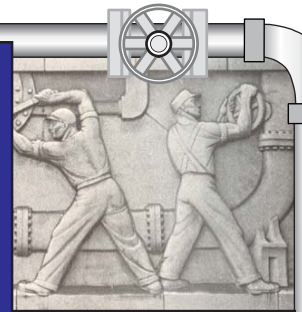




Local 1320 THE OPEN LINE

NYC Sewage Treatment Workers & Senoir Sewage Treatment
Workers



District Council 37, AFSCME, AFL-CIO • Vol. 10, No. 2 Summer 2006

Message from the President

New DC 37 Contract Affects Local 1320 Members

Sisters and Brothers,

By now you have all seen coverage in the media and Public Employee Press of the DC 37 economic agreement with the City of New York. Local 1320 is not directly covered by this agreement because we have asked the Comptroller's Office to conduct a wage survey for our titles and determine our salaries as prescribed by the 220 Prevailing Wage Law. However, the DC 37 bargaining had an impact on our Local and that is why we took an active role in DC 37 contract negotiations.

At one point the City and the Union had several pension issues on the table, but these items were removed from the overall package and referred to a sub-committee for future discussion. As Chairperson of the DC 37 Pension Committee, I will be representing not only the interests of DC 37 members but also representing Local 1320 on pension issues.

Another item that affects Local 1320 members is the recurring increase of \$100 and a one-time cash payment of \$166.67 to our Benefit Trust fund. This additional funding was needed to offset the rising cost of prescription drugs. As a Trustee of the Health and Security Fund, it was a priority of mine to insure adequate funding to avoid cost increases to the members in the form of additional co-pays or other plan modifications, which would have been necessary to close the deficit if these additional funds were not secured.

Even though we are not covered by this agreement, the Local will be seeking to be included in the new residency changes.

Also of significance to the Members of Local 1320, and an issue that we have been trying to correct since 1986, are the changes to the residency law.

Even though we are not covered by this agreement, the Local will be seeking to be included in the new residency changes. Given all of this, it was imperative for our Local to have representation at the table when DC 37 negotiated its package to protect our members' rights and to have input on long-awaited changes.

Meanwhile, the Comptroller's Office has notified the Local that they are completing the Senior Stationary Engineers Electric wage survey and will be issuing a rate shortly. (The rate should be published as this newsletter goes to press.) The Comptrollers' Office assured us that we would be the next titles worked on to establish our rates. I will keep you informed of their progress. Enjoy the rest of the summer, and I hope to see all of you at the September 12th General Membership Meeting.



In solidarity,
Jim Tucciarelli
President



A Letter from the Editor

Support your negotiating team

MANY OF YOU have been asking about the contract negotiations. As you know, it's been four years since we had a pay raise. The STWs and SSTWs are still trying to live with the same wages we did four years ago, even though prices have gone up on everything, from the cost of going to work to heating and cooling your home. This makes a lot of us very anxious about when the contract will be negotiated.

Well, we all have to be patient.

We have a very good case. We all know that we're grossly under compensated for what we do. It could take a year or two, or more, but when it's all said and done, we should be at par with outside trades. It will be well worth the sacrifices we're making now and in the future. Have faith in your negotiation team and know that they are working hard to get what we deserve.

In solidarity,
George Rodriguez
Editor, *Open Line*



Your contributions, ideas and suggestions for the local's website (www.local1930.org) and newsletter are welcome and encouraged. Please feel free to contact me at Local1320@msn.com or at GRodriguez@local1320.org.
I look forward to hearing from you.



From the Vice President:

Shop Stewards Protect Our Rights

ONE OF MY most important duties as Vice President of Local 1320 is being Chief Shop Steward. As head steward, I have to rely heavily on the individual shop stewards in each location. Their knowledge of the rules and regulations is vital to a smooth running facility. Besides attending all union meetings to keep their members informed on what is going on and bringing your concerns to our attention, they put in extra time to learn the policies and procedures of our department.

Your shop stewards are our first

line of defense in protecting our rights with management. Many times their intervention on an STW's behalf goes unnoticed by the plant personnel. Let them know that you appreciate the time and effort that they put in every day. I want to personally thank each and every shop steward for making my job easier. Without your help my job would be a whole lot tougher!

In solidarity,
Joe Napolitano
Vice President



Join the DC 37 Working Families
for the 2006

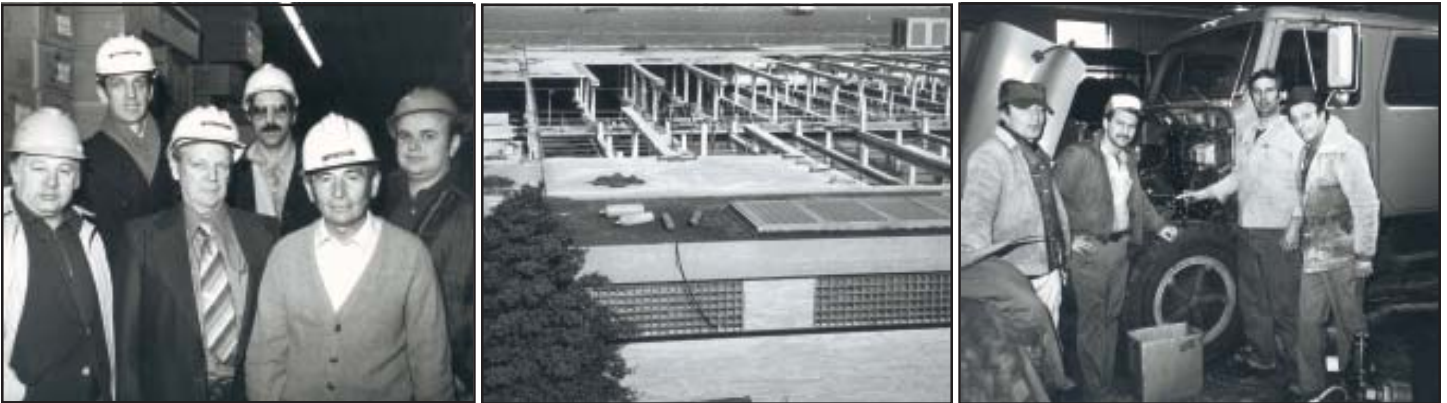
Labor Day Parade
Saturday, September 9

District Council 37 contingent will assemble on East 46th Street between 5th Ave. and Vanderbilt Ave. at 11 a.m.

Part two of a series

A HISTORY OF LOCAL 1320 NYC SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKERS AND SENIOR SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKERS

Written by John Toto, Local 1320, May 1982



1965 - 1982

Local 1320 will be celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2007. In preparation for our upcoming anniversary, the “Open Line” is running a series on the history of Local 1320. This is Part 2, the final part of the series. We hope that you find it enjoyable.

1965

Sewage Treatment Workers were making \$3.81 an hour, in July of 1965, Seniors, \$4.16.

On the race tracks that summer, newcomer Braulio Baeza was the leading jockey, with his mounts winning \$2,582,802. Willie Mays, the “say hey” kid, was well on his way to winning his second MVP Award, his first since the Giants left the Polo Grounds for San Francisco. The American League MVP went to Zoilo Versalles, a flashy shortstop for the Minnesota Twins.

DC 37 continued to grow and as the Council grew the servicing staff was expanded. Victor Gotbaum replaced an ailing Charlie Taibi as DC 37’s Executive Director. John Toto was appointed as a Council Rep for DC 37 and Sid Ryan moved up to guide the local as President.

1966

In 1966, the hourly rate for STWs went to \$3.96 and Seniors to \$4.31. The local took steps in that year to see

that STW Trainees were not exploited or used to replace journeymen STWs. Work rules were worked out, which gave benefits to trainees, which were similar to those being enjoyed by STWs. Oilers, still on a 48 hour week, were demanding the same kind of “reduction in hours, without loss of pay” worked out for STWs and Seniors by 1962. The Oilers’ Bargaining and Organizing Committee was setting a goal for organizing Oilers to gain a city wide certification, and exclusive bargaining rights. The Committee consisted of Oilers Joe Mirro, Artie Pennisi, George Buenaventura, Adam Pignataro and DC 37 Rep John Toto.

Local 1320 won a representative election in DPW, and with the victory came the right of exclusive representation in that department only. The next target was the Department of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity. Here again, the Oilers were organized and another representation election was scheduled for May 26, 1966. Local 1320 won the election getting 100% of the votes. This victory, coupled with the earlier DPW win, gave

In the world of sports that year, the fledgling AFL merged with the established NFL to end a bitter war for survival. Tom Landry's Dallas Cowboys lost to the Green Bay Packers 34-27 in the Pro Football Championship game.

By year's end, STW rates went to \$4.11 and Seniors went to \$4.46 per hour. The Public Employee Press took on a "new look" when the October 31 issue flashed the headline that the Brooklyn Public Library Guild won the right to represent the BPL Employees by a vote of 560 to 130. The Local continued to add new leadership as George Daly, Vinny Ottomano, Marty Dudek and Lou Aliperta worked with President Sid Ryan and DC 37 Staff Rep, Dick Kosten.

1967

STWs went to \$4.40 and Seniors to \$4.75, by July of 1967. On March 10, 1967, President Sid Ryan and DC 37 Rep John Toto announced the signing of the first written agreement in the history of the Department of Public Works. The Memorandum of Understanding, as it came to be known, covered procedures for seniority, transfers and vacation picks. The negotiations took months to conclude and on several occasions were in danger of total collapse. The newly created Office of Labor Relations sent in a mediator named Tom Laura, to assist the parties. DPW was represented by Abe Chasik, Chief of Plant Operations and James G. Rosato, Director of Employee Relations for DPW. Local 1320 was represented by Sid Ryan and John Toto.

1968

1968 was a Presidential Election year. Seniors saw their rates move to \$5.05 per hour and STWs went to \$4.70

If you followed baseball that summer, the talk was about the Cincinnati Reds' new catcher, Johnny Bench, who was on his way to being named the National League Rookie of the Year. The American League honors went to Yankee right-hander Stan Brahnson. In the Presidential campaign, the country and the world were shocked with the news of the shooting of Bobby Kennedy. In November of that year, the electorate chose the Republican ticket over the Democratic team of Humphrey-Muskie. Spiro Agnew became our VP and Richard M. Nixon was to be the 37th President of the United States.

1969

Highlighting 1969 were the STWs reaching the \$5.00 mark on July 1. Seniors went to \$5.50 on the same date.

The Miracle Mets stunned the baseball world by first winning the National League Pennant and then taking the World Series from the Baltimore Orioles 4 games to 1. Their co-tenants at Shea Stadium, the New York Jets, won the Pro Football honors of the year as "Broadway Joe" Namath led the Jets to a 16-7 Super Bowl victory over the Baltimore Colts. The play that everyone wanted tickets to was "HAIR", the smash of the Broadway season. The Fifth Dimension won a Grammy in 1969 for their recording of HAIR's showstopper, 'AQUARIUS/LET THE SUN SHINE IN'.

1970

1970 started off with immediate problems as Plant Operations Chief Norman Nash moved to cut the night watches at Ward's Island and transfer the men to days. Vic Gotbaum acted to avert a threatened walkout as he convinced EPA Administrator Dr. Merrill Eisenbud to send the issue to arbitration. In March of 1970, the local won the right to be included in a federally funded program that would prepare EPA employees for advancement to supervisory positions in the agency.

The victory was memorialized in a three party agreement between the City, the Union and the U. S. Department of Interior. Bernie Rifkin of the DC 37 Education Fund was instrumental in securing the pact, as was Local 1320 activist Frank Gissona. The May issue of PEP ran a three page feature with pictures on Local 1320. Its title was "WHAT DO YOU DO WITH A BILLION GALLONS OF SEWAGE A DAY?" The rates for the titles moved up again this year as STWs got \$5.34 and Seniors \$5.84 per hour.

The New York Knicks won the National Basketball Championship, as they took the measure of Los Angeles and the Knicks' Willis Reed was named the NBA's MVP. In the record world, a new sister/brother combination called the Carpenters won the 1970 Grammy in the pop group for their recording of "Close To You", and in Hollywood George C. Scott made news by refusing to attend the Academy Awards or accept the Oscar as Best Actor for his role as "Patton".

1971

1971 was another historic year for the local as well as for DC 37. STWs started the new year off celebrating an hourly rate of \$5.54, as Seniors went to \$6.04 per hour. DC 37 was intent on improving pensions and had lobbied intensively for legislation that supported the pension plan negoti

ated with the City. When the enabling legislation was defeated, a strike was fashioned in which Blue Collar workers took the leading roles. Bridges were left in the open position for the morning rush hour on June 7, 1971. Workers in shops, the Parks Department, MVOs and thousands of members of DC 37 and Teamster Local 237, pulled the completely surprising strike which caught the City off guard and crippled traffic and work from the Bronx to the Battery.

The turning point came when the Sewage Treatment Workers and Seniors effectively closed down the treatment of sewage, and an agreement to end the walkout was worked out. The dumping of sewage into surrounding waters brought a lawsuit from Nassau County which was eventually settled, but which helped establish the vulnerability of unions to be sued for damages caused by strikes. A tremendous Grand Jury investigation followed the strike and Barry Feinstein of Local 237 was indicted. The indictment was later dismissed.

In Hollywood, the rage of the season was over the filming of Mario Puzo's "The Godfather", with Marlon Brando, Al Pacino, James Caan and Richard Castellano. People stood on line at theatres across America to see the film that went on to win the Academy Award for Best Picture, while Marlon Brando won for Best Actor.

1972

1972 opened with STWs earning \$5.95 and Seniors at \$6.50 per hour. The local leadership in this year included Fred DeSisto, Nick Petrillo and Phil Prainito assisting President George Daly. DC 37 Rep Manny Perez was assigned to service the local. The September 29, 1972 edition of the PEP carried a picture of the Local 1320 Board being sworn into office. The year ended with STWs at \$6.16 per hour and SSTWs at \$6.76.

1973

In 1973, much of the talk in the world of sports centered on the chances for a Triple Crown to be won by a horse named Secretariat. Secretariat turned the trick by outdistancing Sham in the Derby and again in the Preakness. In the Belmont Stakes, Jockey Ron Turcotte guided Secretariat to a victory over Twice a Prince, to capture the third and final jewel of the Triple Crown. In the World Series that year, the Oakland Athletics beat the New York Mets, 4 games to 3.

The year closed with STWs earning \$6.76 per hour and Seniors at \$7.36.

1974

The local moved forward in 1974 with George Daly as President. DC 37 assigned Tony Sessa as Rep for the local. The new rates in the determination called for increases to \$7.46 on January 1, 1974 for STWs and to \$8.22 for Seniors. Other improvements included an increase in shift differentials from \$2.50 to \$3.50 per shift, and a \$25,000 Death Benefit for accidental or job connected deaths.

Other local officers of that year included Charlie Ciccotta, Mike Modafferi, Tony basso, Ted Cyran, Warren Ward, Frank Lucci and Bill Morrow.

The Fiscal Crisis Years

The steady upward wage scale was interrupted by the fiscal crisis starting in 1975. Bankruptcy was averted as the unions invested heavily in City bonds with the investing of employees' pension funds. "No cost contracts", "givebacks", "deferrals" and "productivity" were the new vocabulary of City negotiators and fiscal overseers. Special legislation was passed for federal loan guarantees by Congress. The Emergency Control Act was passed in the New York State legislature, and "Big Mac" was not a hamburger. Names like Rockefeller, Rohaytn, Wriston, Berger and Carey were the headline grabbers of the time.

Yankees, Rangers, Mets, Knicks and Islanders were pushed off the media's "preferred List" and replaced by Citibank, Chemical, our friend at Chase Manhattan, and the conscience of the times, Dunn and Bradstreet.

Wages were retarded and cost of living (COLA) schemes did not keep up with the pace of inflation and consumer process. After 20 years, the Single Labor Law Complaint Bill passed both houses of the legislature and was signed into law by Governor Carey in September 1976.

1979

By 1979, things started to look a little better. STWs moved up to \$8.44 and Seniors were up to \$9.27 by September of 1979. The local was still developing new leadership, and the wage rate advanced once more. Bob Pew and John Verton joined President Tom Zultowski on the Executive Board.

1980

1980 opened with a new Executive Board being sworn in on January 8th. John Toto was elected President on his return to Plant Operations. New Executive Board members included Frank Esposito, Jack Webster, Jim Tucciarelli and Sal Alaimo. Negotiations resumed on the Memo of Understanding and the 1980-1981 Determination. Rates for STWs

were increased to \$8.78 and Seniors went to \$9.64

President Toto appointed a Constitution Revision Committee and a new Constitution for Local 1320 was adopted by the membership and approved by the International Union on May 1, 1980. Plant meetings were started to give the members input in design phase of the new plant planning for both Owl's Head and Coney Island. Local 1320 introduced the "OPEN LINE", a newsletter written and issued by and for Sewage Treatment Workers and Seniors.

1981

The local started off the 1981 year with a course to prepare SSTWs for the promotion Exam to Stationary Engineer, Electric. The three week course was run in January. John Toto was re-elected President. Others joining the Executive Board were Kevin Chambers, and the Chairperson of the newly created Senior STW Chapter, George Daly. OPEN LINE reported on an accident in which three members were injured when their truck was demolished by an oncoming truck at Kane Street Pumping Station on the Brooklyn Queens Expressway. In April 1981, negotiations were successfully concluded and our first working conditions contract was ratified by the membership on April 14th. The logjam of transfers, previously denied during probationary periods, was broken open. A severe drought in the New York State Watershed Region brought about a water emergency and water use was restricted. OPEN LINE joined the Labor Press as it reported on the local's plan for a Grade II Operations Course.

The Bowery Bay Plant won temporary improvements in the operation of the chamber of horrors known as "The Splitter Box". Results from the promotion exam to Stationary Engineer, Electric were published as a list with 19 eligibles, which was promulgated and used immediately. A new test is in the works. The Grade II Course started on time in September. Thousands of unionists marched in Washington on SOLIDARITY DAY, September 19th, to protest Reagan's economic policies, dubbed REAGANOMICS, as well as registering anger over the President's mishandling of the Air Traffic Controllers Strike and the treatment of their Union, PATCO. The local collected and donated \$300 for the Brotherhood Fund to assist the Transit Unions to pay off a \$1 million fine.

July saw the hourly rate for STWs go to \$10.23, while Seniors jumped to \$11.24. For the first time in years,

the determination provided that all STWs will be at the same rate of pay, when the NPCP is rolled into everybody's rate (July 1, 1982).

The New York Islanders won Hockey's Stanley Cup, the Yankees lost to the L. A. Dodgers in the World Series, 4 games to 2, and a filly named Pleasant Colony won both the Derby and the Preakness, but lost her bid for the Triple Crown when Summing won the grueling 1 ½ mile Belmont Stakes amid rumors of injury.

The year 1981 ended on a sad note with the passing of Jerry Wurf, International President. Also saddening the Holiday Season was the tragic death of STW Tony Pino of the Jamaica Plant. Brother Pino died of complications arising from an infection of Amoeba Histolytica. His death set in motion a whole series of tests by DEP and the New York City Department of Health.

1982

1982, our 25th Anniversary Year, opened with promise. On February 3rd, a new list for STWs was published and promulgated, with 215 eligibles. The old list of more than 490 candidates saw almost every eligible called at least once. Our Grade II Course was a huge success. Graduation took place at the College of Staten Island, in a ceremony held on February 19th. The second semester started on March 9th. Funds for the rehabilitation of Owl's Head, Coney Island, and Newtown Creek have been gaining support and congressional leaders and state officials maneuver to make more federal dollars available. Local 1320's Education Committee has drawn plans for development of new safety and education programs and the local bargaining committee has drawn demands, both economic and non-economic, for our contracts which expire in June of 1982.



New Environmental Health and Safety Program

By Doug Greely, Deputy Commissioner of Waste Water Treatment

I'D LIKE TO introduce myself to the members of Sewage Treatment Workers Local 1320. I have worked at DEP for 33 years, almost all of which were spent in the Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations. I have been with the Bureau of Wastewater Treatment since February 2006, and in a very short time I have been deeply impressed by the knowledge, versatility and dedication of the people I've met.

I hope you will find that I am supportive of the people that make our operations run and that I am very approachable.

As you know, DEP recently entered a probation period of at least three years, during which time many changes to the way the Bureau of Wastewater Treatment operates will be taking place. BWT has traditionally conducted a number of training programs for employees to provide them with the skills they need to perform their jobs.

We will be expanding our program to include chemical handling and storage, environmental and workplace awareness, addressing workplace hazards, creating and communicating standard operating policies and providing additional job skill training.

Other workplace changes include expanding the workforce to perform additional maintenance on our equipment and facilities, heightened awareness of our regulatory and reporting obligations, and the replacement of troublesome or outmoded equipment.

As the Environmental Health and Safety Program evolves, I'd like you to remember our common goals:

- A safe, comfortable and productive workplace.
- You are protected from injury,

chemicals and practices which may harm you in the workplace.

- You protect yourself and your co-workers while you are working.
- Our facilities do not impact the neighborhoods or the general environment adversely.

If you have ideas or suggestions on how to improve the program, or if you believe something needs to be addressed by the EH&S Program, please speak up! There are many ways for you to be heard, and if you have suggestions or wish to raise an issue or if you have a concern you would like to discuss, please feel free to contact your union

representatives, supervisor, facility safety liaison or plant chief.

You may also contact the DEP Employee Concerns Hotline at (800) 897-9677, or the Federal Monitor, A. Patrick Nucciarone, at (732) 280-4800.

You should be tremendously proud of the business you are in. While it is not the most glamorous work, it is absolutely vital to the health of not only New York City, but the surrounding region and its environment. If not for you, this city would not exist as we know it. As I get around I hope to meet and talk to you all. If we haven't met yet, I hope we meet soon.

Recipe: Potato Crusted Salmon

From Vice President Joe Napolitano

Ingredients

- 2 large potatoes, peeled
- 4 salmon filets
- Vegetable oil for frying flour
- 3 eggs, beaten
- Sauce for salmon
- 1 stick of butter
- 2 cups of heavy cream
- ½ tsp. Fresh dill
- Salt to taste
- 2 tbsp. white wine

Melt butter and add rest; reduce on low until thick

Procedure

Flour both sides of salmon (shake off excess flour)

Shred potato on large blade of cheese grater (set aside)

Egg batter **bottom of fish only**

Apply shredded potato on egg-battered side of fish. Put it on hard – a thin coat - just enough to cover fish

Put oil in frying pan until get red hot, then lower temperature

When hot, put fish in potato side down in oil; wait 2–3 minutes and flip for 35 seconds, then transfer into baking pan.

Put in oven at 350-degree for 8 minutes (Put in pan potato-side up. Make sure pan is greased.)



LOCAL 1320
NEW YORK CITY SEWAGE TREATMENT &
SENIOR SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKERS

www.local1320.org

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CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Sharon** and **Barry DeCoursey** on the birth of their son Connor James, on June 29, 2006 weighing in at 8 pounds 8 ounces and 21-and-a-quarter inches. Best wishes from the Open Line.

Local 1320 Official Meeting Notice

Local 1320 General Membership Meeting

Date: Tuesday September 12, 2006

Time: 6:30 PM

Place: 125 Barclay Street, NYC, Room 2

- Agenda:
- 1) Reading of Minutes
 - 2) Financial report
 - 3) Report from AFSCME Convention
 - 4) Officers report
 - a) Economic bargaining update
 - b) Labor Management issues
 - c) New hires

OPEN LINE
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