

# IRISH

# LABOR

# 100 2013

## AWARDS BANQUET

Friday, November 8th, 2013 • 5:30pm

Sheraton New York Times Square Hotel

811 7th Ave at 52nd Street • New York, NY 10019

**GUEST SPEAKER: Gerry Adams T.D.**

**SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER: Terry O'Sullivan  
President LiUNA**

## Honoring Irish- America's Labor Legacy

The contribution of the Irish in America to the cause of labor has been nothing less than immense. It could be argued that the American labor movement would not exist at all in its current form without the efforts of the standout Irish men and women through the years, both immigrant arrivals and American-born. It is with this unique legacy in mind that the Irish Echo is hosting an event this coming November 8th in New York.

In honor of the centennial anniversary of the 1913 lockout, The Irish Echo is expanding our Third Annual Irish Labor 50 to 100. This year we will be honoring 100 leading Irish-American men and women in today's labor movement, while at the same time reflecting on the work of those historical giants who paved the way to labor's central role in contemporary American life.

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## The Irish gave life to American labor

By Terry O'Sullivan  
letters@irishecho.com

In this centennial year of the historic Dublin Lockout, it is fitting that we honor such a large group of Irish Americans who today are playing a vital role in the Labor Movement.

Just as Jim Larkin, James Connolly, and the men and women of the Irish Transport and General Workers Union (ITGWU) and the Irish Women Workers Union (IWWU) fought for more than better wages and working conditions, so the men and women honored on these pages have been fighting for social and economic justice as well as for workplace justice.

They follow in the footsteps not only of Larkin and Connolly, but of Irish women heroes such as Hannah Sheehy-Skeffington, Margaret Cousins, and Constance Markievicz.

They also pick up the torch of justice from previous generations of Irish-American labor leaders whose courage, dedication, and hard work helped build our world.

The story of Irish involvement in the American Labor Movement began in the 1840s, when thousands of Irish immigrants fled famine in their native land.

Those were dark times, and the United States offered opportunity not available at home.

Many of these refugees chose the United States over Canada because they wished to get as far away as possible from British anti-Irish and anti-Catholic prejudices.

Little did they know that they would be met by similar bigotry in many American cities, especially as their ranks began to swell.

But just as they would not suffer the tyranny of British oppression in Ireland, so they were not about to accept bigotry and exploitation at the hands of employers and their agents here.

Irish immigrants provided much of the brains, brawn, and backs of America's first industrial workforce, and their response to the challenges they faced would shape the experiences of waves of immigrant workers to follow.

Many of the organizations and institutions they established created the foundation on which much of the American Labor Movement is built, and some of those organizations still exist today.

Irish immigrants and descendants of Irish immigrants were among the founders of my union, and hold positions at every level of LIUNA today.

Stepping onto the shores of this new land, our ancestors dug tunnels, mined coal, built railroads, milled steel, erected buildings, and provided the raw manpower demanded by a rapidly industrializing nation.

Treated like animals, shunned as strangers, feared because of their religious beliefs, they were forced by circumstance to stand up for



James Larkin.



James Connolly.



Mother Jones.



Elizabeth Gurley Flynn.

themselves and their rights as human beings, and in so doing became the backbone of some of the first labor organizations established in the United States.

One son of Irish immigrants, Terence Powderly, took the Knights of Labor from a small, secretive organization to one of the largest labor organizations of its day.

A daughter of County Cork, Ireland, Mary Harris "Mother" Jones, became one of the most well-known American labor leaders, working first with the Knights of Labor, then with the United Mine Workers.

The American Federation of Labor was co-founded by an Irishman, P.J. McGuire.

The entire history of the American labor movement is peppered with Irish names: Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, Kate Richards O'Hare, Father John A. Ryan, John Brophy, James Carey, Mike Quill, Maurice Tobin, George Meany, John Sweeney, and Thomas Donahue, just to name a few.

And I would be remiss not to mention my own father, Terence J. O'Sullivan,

who served as LIUNA General Secretary-Treasurer, and who chairs LIUNA's retiree council.

From the beginning of Irish involvement in the American Labor Movement, there was cross-pollination with the ongoing struggle for Irish independence.

Many of the Irish immigrants who stood up for their rights here had fought for their rights in Ireland as well, as members of the Land League, an organization devoted to Irish independence and land reform.

Indeed, the use of the boycott as a tool of protest came directly from similar boycotts of landlords in Ireland.

So prevalent was the Irish influence on the American Labor Movement, that by 1910, nearly half of the 110 member unions of the American Federation of Labor were led by Irish-born or Irish-American men.

Today, the sons and daughters of Ireland serve in positions throughout the American Labor Movement, organizing workers, negotiating contracts, handling grievances, ensuring worksite safety, and staffing

and leading various labor organizations.

For many of these warriors of the working class, their work is more than a job, and larger than a career; it is a lifetime's commitment.

The men and women honored in these pages are just such warriors; day in and day out, they fight the good fight on behalf of working families. Whether they were raised in union households or came to the labor movement as adults, their dedication to our movement is strong, their commitment to working men and women is unwavering, and their passion for justice is fierce.

***"The entire history of the American labor movement is peppered with Irish names: Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, Kate Richards O'Hare, Father John A. Ryan, John Brophy, James Carey, Mike Quill, Maurice Tobin, George Meany, John Sweeney, and Thomas Donahue, just to name a few."***

These are the Jim Larkins, James Connollys, Mother Joneses, and Elizabeth Gurley Flynn's of our time.

The men and women profiled in this special supplement to the Irish Echo are torchbearers of justice. Each, in his or her own way, has been working to build a better world in which workplaces are safer, workers have a greater voice in decisions that affect their lives, and all working people receive their fair share of the rewards of their labor. They remind us that none of us stands alone, and that individual achievement is impossible without collective advancement.

The selfless dedication of the men and women honored in these pages is both an inspiration, and a cause for recognition and celebration.

***Terry O'Sullivan is General President of LIUNA, the Laborers' International Union of North America.***

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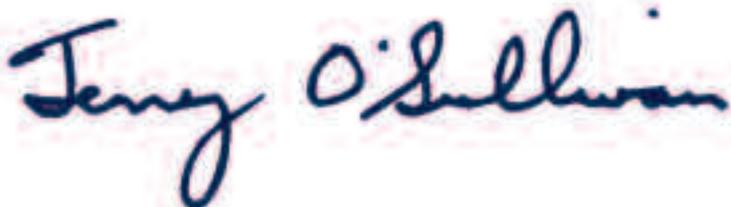
salute

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and congratulate  
all of the

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100 Honorees.**

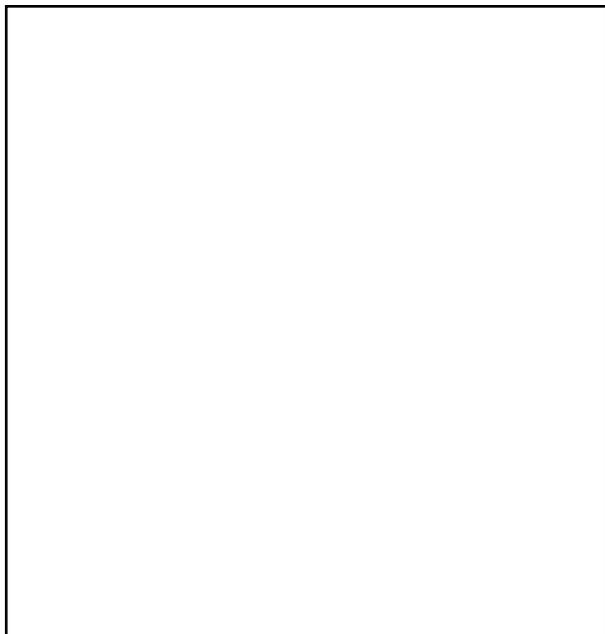
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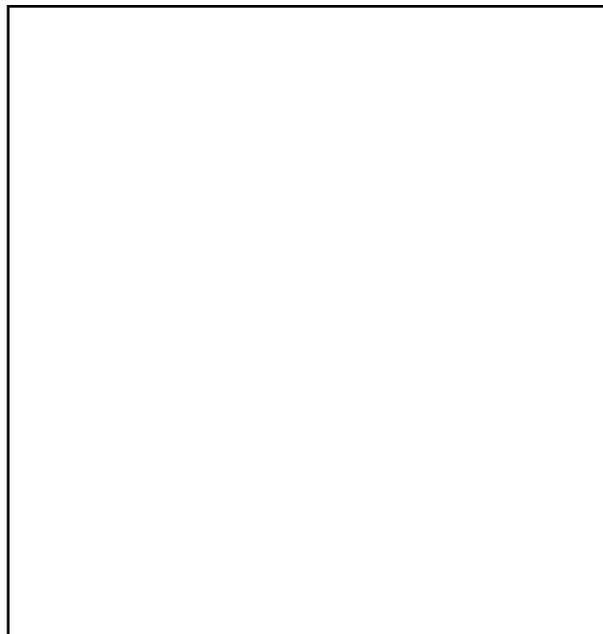
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X



X

## James Larkin blazed fiery American trail

Set head:

By Dave Hannigan  
 letters@irishecho.com

Callout: "To carry on his fiery cross mission among laboring men, who, as everybody knows, are shockingly abused in this country, and underpaid, is the idea of Mr. Larkin...James is unique in his line, the most conspicuous and noisiest disturber of the public peace. He is no imitator. He is an original. --- New York Times editorial reacting to news of James Larkin's proposed trip to America. Published December 26, 1913.

Caption with Mugshot jpg: The Sing Sing-bound James Larkin.

Caption with Pose jpg: Larkin in classic pose.

Caption with Sing Sing 1913 jpg: Sing Sing Prison in 1913, year of the Great Lockout.

Caption with Hoover jpg: A young Hoover.

Caption with Charlie jpg: Charlie jpg: Charlie Chaplin.

Caption with O'Casey jpg: Sean O'Casey.

On May 21st, 1916, Jim Larkin, by then resident in Chicago, organized a rally at George M. Cohan's Grand Opera House on Clark Street to commemorate those who had died in the Easter Rising the previous month.

Several guest speakers were representing the various radical, nationalist and socialist groups from around the city were invited. Dr. K.A. Zurawski came to the podium, wearing the colors of the Polish Federation, a group whose aspirations for independence were in tune with Ireland's own.

"The English certainly murdered the Irish in true Russian style," said Zurawski.

The crowd of nearly 1500 erupted with applause at the line, one put-upon ethnicity empathizing with another. As the clapping and the cheering died down, Matthew Thomas Newman, described by journalists present as "a dapper young man with a broad English accent," stood up in his seat and began to speak.

"I am as good an Irishman as any here today," said Newman. "I have lived in Ireland and my mother is from a long line of Ireland's best. But such ballybunk makes me ill. I say, why do you put over such ridiculous drivel?"

Larkin was seated at the back of the stage but he was near enough to hear every word. He stood up out of his chair with rage, sprinted towards the footlights, hurdled the orchestra pit and jumped another brass railing before landing in the aisle.

As he closed on Newman, Elizabeth Larkin shrieked at the back of the auditorium and started to walk down toward her husband. By then, he had reached his quarry and she beseeched him to see sense through the red mist descending.

"Be careful what you do to him!" shouted Elizabeth. "Jim, Jim! Think!"

He wasn't thinking. He was too busy attacking the heckler. He had his hands gripped around Newman's throat and seemed bent on choking him to death.

Perhaps finally affected by his wife's intervention, he stopped the attempted asphyxiation but he wasn't letting Newman off lightly. He pulled him from the row of seats and shook him with such ferocity that he ended up tearing his collar away. Then, he dragged Newman up the aisle and through the doors before depositing him in the lobby.

The show over, his face flushed with rage, his blood boiling and sweat forming on his brow, Larkin made his way back to the stage. He still had a job to do. In his mind, that job was to educate those present about the complexity of the rebellion in which his friends and colleagues had died. When he came to the microphone himself later in the evening, Larkin informed the crowd, amongst other things, that the Rising had been aided by English people. To hammer home this particular point, he picked up one of three rifles which had been placed on the stage, and held it above his head.

"Perhaps you don't know who brought this kind of rifle into Ireland," he said. "Of course you don't because the press has never told you. Well, it was Angela Spring-Rice, sister of Ambassador Spring-Rice (London's man in Washington). It was she who smuggled them to us."

That cameo in Chicago came 18 months after Liverpool-born Larkin had left Ireland for New York with the fall-out from the 1913 Lock-out still resounding.

The impact of the Dublin agitation and the coverage of it in American papers meant he arrived in the United States already a well-known name.

Indeed, the New York Times had first talked about him coming to the city 11 months before he actually landed. Originally intending to stay for a few months, he remained for eight and a half years, during which time he became more infamous than famous after his involvement in a succession of high-profile controversies, court cases, and a stint in Sing Sing Prison.

Just three days after he walked off the St. Louis in New York Harbor in November, 1914, Larkin spoke before a crowd of 15,000 at a rally in Madison Square Garden, an honored guest at a celebration of the election of Meyer London, a socialist, to U.S. Congress. Quite a

debut.

"If it's men you are fighting for, your movement is damned," said Larkin that night, "but if it's a great principle, you will triumph. The task before you is great. You must realize the great responsibility that faces you. It takes great men and women to stand up and say 'We're Socialists'. You are fighting to abolish this system of exploitation."

He went down a storm with that sympathetic audience, most of whom knew his reputation and regarded him as a hero from what they'd read about him in the left-wing press.

The rest of New York and America came to know the name pretty quickly too due to Larkin throwing himself into various socialist and radical causes, from workers' rights to the anti-war movement.

The Bureau of Investigation (forerunner of the modern FBI) file on Larkin would eventually run to nearly 500 pages as the government struggled to keep up with his every move, crisscrossing the continent.

One minute he was headlining an Irish independence rally, flanked by Irish Volunteers on one side of the stage and German Uhlans on the other, the next he was chairing a meeting where 500 Americans pledged themselves to communism as a police stenographer sat in the crowd taking copious notes.

He lived in great poverty for much of the time, almost dying from a leaky gas cooker in his Greenwich Village apartment. Yet, when he went down to Mexico to meet with German spies anxious to get him to try to create havoc on the American docks, and to hamper the war effort, he was traveling by power boat and staying in the best hotels.

"There are 20 million German-Americans and 13 million Irish-Americans in the United States," roared Larkin at an event in Philadelphia where the Irish and German diasporas shared common cause.

"And if you act together, you can make the United States and the newspapers do as you like. I am not a citizen of the United States and if they want to deport me tomorrow they can do it."

This type of stuff ensured Larkin was avidly watched throughout his stay and, inevitably, he fell foul of the authorities.

As might be expected from an outsized character loose in America at a tumultuous time in that nation's history, there was espionage and intrigue (he was assiduously courted by both the Germans and the Russians), double-dealing, assassination attempts, courtroom drama and prison stays.

At various times, he plotted with the Germans in San Francisco, urged anarchists to throw bombs in New

# CONGRATULATIONS

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# IRISH LABOR 100

York, attracted death threats for organizing miners in Butte, Montana, and published a socialist newspaper out of Chicago.

In a seminal moment in American trade union history, he delivered one of the orations at the funeral of the trade union martyr Joe Hill (immortalized in song by, amongst others, The Dubliners).

His high-profile role that day, coupled with his clandestine associations with everyone from Russian revolutionaries to Italian anarchists meant he was all over the American government's radar.

When they responded to the growing "red scare" in November, 1919 by arresting 2000 dissidents over the course of one day, Larkin was among them. He was charged with "criminal anarchy," his crime being involvement in the Socialist Party of America's newspaper "The Revolutionary Age."

Released on bail, he didn't temper his words any and the government didn't ease off on the surveillance either.

"I take pleasure in enclosing herewith a memorandum prepared by me upon a speech made by Jim Larkin at Yorkville Casino, New York, April 6th, 1920 which contains certain statements pertinent to his activities," wrote J Edgar Hoover in a memo to the Department of Labor, as he sought to bring deportation pressure on Larkin.

Over time, Hoover, then in charge of the Bureau's Intelligence Division, became a little obsessed with Larkin. Even after his trial culminated in him being sentenced to "five to ten" in Sing Sing prison, the future director of the FBI was trying to manufacture fresh charges against him.

"I have just come across the enclosed clipping dealing with James Larkin whose pernicious influences you so successfully curbed," wrote Hoover to the state prosecutor.

"However, he seems to be engaging again from behind prison walls in his usual propaganda. I thought the same might be of special interest to you."

The Hoover correspondence is contained in the FBI file. It shows how some in power regarded him as a serious threat. Indeed, the chief magistrate at his trial in New York described him as a "positively dangerous" man.

It says much for his celebrity too that Sean O'Casey headed up one of the committees established to get

him released, the Soviet Union offered to do a prisoner swap of Americans in return for Larkin, and Charlie Chaplin was among those who visited him in prison.

The best-known actor of the age was so moved by his plight he sent on a package to Larkin's wife Elizabeth, including a gift of some slippers. Truth be told though, the marriage had become more and more estranged even after his wife had joined him in New York.

This wasn't the least of his problems either. At one point, Irish Republicans were planning to poison him because they feared what effect he might have on the situation back home should he return to Dublin. Their bizarre plot included a lookalike they had ready to send to Ireland in his stead.

Then there's the court case. With his usual obstinacy, Larkin opted to defend himself and used the opportunity to deliver his manifesto to an even wider audience.

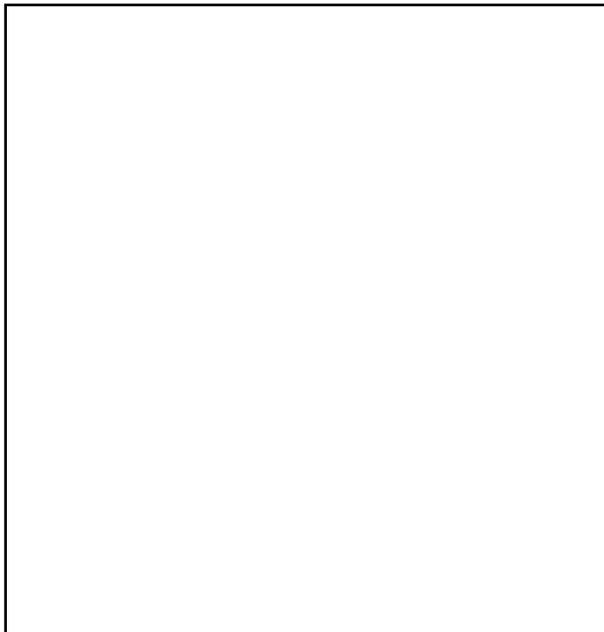
"Gentlemen, some day you in America will be told the truth," he lectured the court. "In the meantime, we who have been on the housetops telling the truth have to suffer. We have to go down the dark days and the dark nights but we go there with the truth in our eyes and our hearts, and no lie upon our lips."

Even after his eventual release from jail in 1923, pardoned by Governor Al Smith, Hoover remained on his trail.

"You will have noted the report that Jim Larkin has been released from prison in New York by Governor Smith," wrote Hoover in a letter to his superior William J Burns on February 7th, 1923.

"It is very likely that a deportation case could be made upon Larkin and I am calling it to your attention in order that you may indicate if it is your wish to proceed with the preparation of this case and present the same to the Department of Labor. I understand there was a warrant issued for Larkin when he was convicted under the New York State laws, and this warrant of course will still hold good."

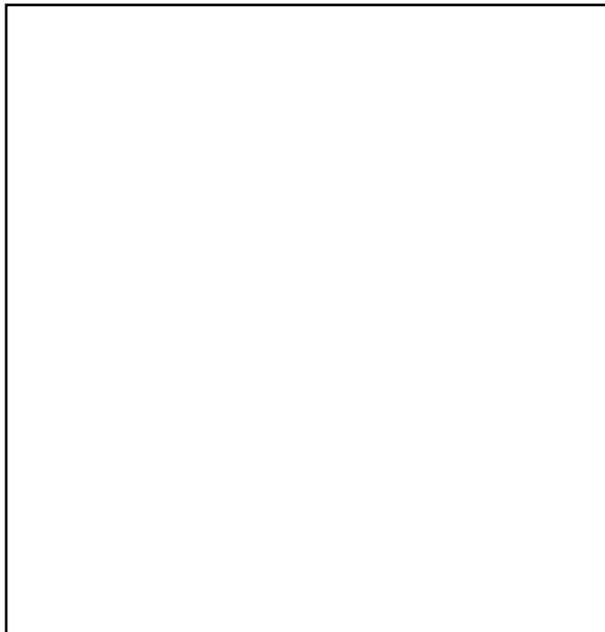
Within two months, Hoover got his wish. Larkin was deported aboard the White Star Line's Majestic back to England, telling one of the agents asking after his luggage as they sent him on his way, "Everything I own is on my back."



x



x



x

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# IRISH LABOR 100

## ELIZABETH BAKER

Current company/position: S.E.I.U. Local 32BJ  
Place of Birth: Cleveland, Ohio

Where you live: Maplewood, New Jersey  
First Job: Waitress

What it taught me: I learned that that low wage workers, especially women working in service jobs, are undervalued and under compensated in terms of their wages, benefits, and working conditions, and that for some in our society, mistreatment of workers is brutal sport. I witnessed strong women, who worked incredibly hard, supported one another, and maintained their dignity in the face of harassment as they went to work each day to provide a better life for themselves and their families

Status: Married

Family: Joel VandeVusse, husband, daughters Olivia and Eleanor VandeVusse

Three things people would be surprised to know about me

- 1: I played ice hockey in college.
- 2: I speak French.

Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view?

In our increasingly inequitable, race-to-the-bottom economy, the labor movement is a critical voice for the poor and the middle class. Unionization, workers rights, and just standards are the most effective weapons against poverty and inequality. Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?

With the right wing, and even some liberals branding the labor movement as a "special interest" and seeking to restrict unions' speech, the labor movement needs to band with community partners, civil rights leaders, and immigrant communities to speak as the unified voice of the vast majority in this country and demand economic and social justice, both on the job and in our communities.

The granddaughter of Edwin James Keeffe and Margaret Mary Sinnott Keeffe, whose parents and grandparents immigrated from Counties Cork and Wexford, Elizabeth Baker has been active in the labor movement for more than twenty-two years, when she was a member of Local 1199. A union lawyer for more than 17 years, Elizabeth is an Associate General Counsel at SEIU Local 32BJ. At SEIU Local 32BJ, her work has focused on campaigns to organize and raise standards for security guards and other low-wage workers, as well as the expansion and defense of prevailing wage standards.

## EDWARD R. BRANNIGAN

Current company/position: National Vice President, Fraternal Order of Police

Place of Birth: Newark, NJ

Where you live: Old Bridge, NJ

First Job: Prudential Insurance Company, Engineering Dept. Building Maintenance low pressure crew.

What it taught me: Taught me about unions. My father was president of the Fireman & Oilers Local 55 and I was getting "on the job" experience, learning about the benefits of unions.

Status: Married

Family: Maureen Brannigan, wife; Eileen Brannigan Woodruff and Katelyn Brannigan, daughters; Rick Woodruff, son in law; Colin and Liam Woodruff, grandsons

Three things people would be surprised to know about me

- 1: Played organized soccer during and after High School.
- 2: Was an intermediate skier back in the 1970s, spending my weekends at Hunter Mountain, NY.
- 3: I was a leather craftsman.

Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view?

Speaking for the public sector unions, the labor movement is extremely relevant today as it always has been. Wages are declining in America despite the fact that corporate profits are at historic highs. The stock market is at record highs of over 15,000 and the workers in America have lost bargaining powers. The basic standards that have protected workers have been eroded. It's the old story, the rich get richer and the poor get poorer.

Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?

Labor has been adapting all along to the changing times. Politicians have legislatively put caps on salaries, pensions and benefits. Public sector unions have turned to grassroots efforts to stop these attacks.

Edward R. Brannigan is National Vice President of the Fraternal Order of Police, representing over 328,000 law enforcement officers in the United States. Ed is also president of the New Jersey State Lodge Fraternal Order of Police U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao appointed Ed to the Advisory Committee on Veterans' Employment and Training in 2005. For three consecutive years, PolitickerNJ.com named Ed one of the state's 100 most powerful and influential leaders. Ed served in the U.S. Navy Reserve from 1967 to 1973.

Activated during the Vietnam War in 1969, he was stationed with Naval Support Activity in Da Nang and received numerous commendations. Upon returning from the military, Ed joined the Newark Police Department, where he served for thirty-one years. Ed is a member of American Legion, a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and a member of the NSA Da Nang Veterans Association. He is active in several Irish-American organizations, including the Essex County Emerald Society, Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh (Old Bridge, NJ); Ironbound Irish American Association (Newark, NJ); Knights of Columbus Counsel #4066 (Maplewood, NJ); New Jersey Retired Police & Firemen's Association. Ed was the Grand Marshal of the 69th Annual Newark St. Patrick's Day Parade.

## SEAN M. CALLAGHAN

Current company/position: Local 103 IBEW Business Agent

Place of Birth: Norwood, MA

Where you live: Quincy, MA

First Job: Dishwasher

What it taught me: That you don't need to be the boss to be in charge

Status: Married

Family: Elizabeth(Waldron) sons Owen Tadhg and Aedan Padraig

Three things people would be surprised to know about me

- 1: My children are named after Irish athletes, Owen Nolan and Padraig Harrington.
- 2: I am ambidextrous. Twisting wires left handed is frowned upon.
- 3: Coaching my children in their sports is the most rewarding experience ever.

Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view?

The shrinking of the middle class combined with the consolidation of wealth has made the labor movement more relevant than ever. Workers are realizing that a voice on the job to fight for them is becoming ever more necessary.

Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?

When an organization is embedded in an environment that is constantly changing adaptation is imperative. The labor movement must constantly create new ways of expressing how they are fiscally, politically and socially the best option for businesses and communities alike.

Sean's strong work ethic was instilled by his parents Peter, Moycullen, Galway, Local 103 IBEW electrician, and Geraldine (Conlon), Boston, Teamster warehouse worker. Growing up in an Irish Catholic family with his brother Peter and sister Karen, Sean learned that family always came first. As a Northeastern University Electrical Engineering co-op student, he worked at MIT's Center for Space Research. After college Sean spent two years in New Orleans developing software. Sean was appointed to Business Agent at Local 103 IBEW in 2012 after being twice elected to the Executive Board. Sean graduated the Harvard Trade Union Program in 2013.

## CONOR OWEN CASEY

Current company/position: Connecticut Education Association/Political Coordinator

Place of Birth: Cooperstown, NY

Where you live: Glastonbury, CT

First Job: Hotel Bellman

What it taught me: Never over-pack while traveling. But if you must, please tip handsomely.

Status: Married

Family: Wife Pixy Casey

Three things people would be surprised to know about me

- 1: I volunteer in a Palestinian refugee camp in the West Bank.
- 2: I spent two (very, very quiet) weeks in a Buddhist monastery in Nepal.
- 3: Seamus Heaney visited us in Oneonta, NY. (I was six).

Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view?

There is a direct correlation between the decrease

in union density and the decline of the middle class. While infighting and "right to work" laws have no doubt weakened our Movement, unions continue to fight the anti-worker policies being pushed by corporate America. Without unions, we would see more workplace deaths, more people retiring penniless, and more essential public services being privatized. In the wake of the "Citizen's United" Supreme Court case, Labor is all that stands between deep-pocketed business interests buying every major election in the country.

Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?

Unions must support policies that benefit all workers, not only their own members. Advocating for single-payer health care and immigration reform should be a priority on every legislative agenda. We need to place a greater emphasis on labor history and educate young workers on how previous generations fought and died for the collective bargaining rights they enjoy today. The Labor Movement cannot survive without adapting and organizing employees in nontraditional workplaces. As they say - "if you're not busy growing, you're busy dying."

Conor Owen Casey spent much of his childhood in County Louth, attending primary school in the village of Carlingford. The son of an Irish history professor, he developed a deep appreciation for worker's rights and political activism at an early age. Conor received his B.A. in Media Arts at Emerson College in Boston and completed his M.A. in Communications at Dublin City University. After returning to the States, he worked in the press office of Senator Edward Kennedy for a year before accepting a government relations position with the Vermont State Employees' Association. As Political Director, Conor saw VSEA through some of its most difficult years during the recession and managed to pass some of the strongest whistleblower protection and anti-privatization laws in the country. For the past year, Conor has served as Political Coordinator for the Connecticut Education Association, representing 43,000 classroom teachers. He has been a vocal opponent of corporate education reform and works tirelessly to elect candidates who support quality public education.

## NOEL FRANCIS CASEY

Current company/position: Retired from Carpenters Union Local 157

Place of Birth: Quilty, County Clare

Where you live: Long Island, NY

First Job: I pumped gas at Shields Garage in Ennis, Co. Clare

What it taught me: It felt good when I got my first paycheck.

Status: Married

Family: Widower. Son John, stepsons Christopher and Rudy Hein

Three things people would be surprised to know about me

1. Learned Irish Step Dancing as a child
2. Attended my first dance in Kilrush, Ireland at 11 years old, and when my teacher found out I had to demonstrate my dancing skills to the class on Monday morning.
3. Met President Bill Clinton in 1993 shortly after his election because I'd worked all night to help construct a platform for an appearance he was making at a Queens diner. He was very appreciative for the effort and thanked those of us involved with handshakes and later on with personal letters.

Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view?

The Labor Movement has always been a dominant player in establishing the base labor rates and improving the pay of the workers. Its presence in the labor field, while reduced remains a dominant factor in maintaining higher wage levels for all work.

A prime example was recently shown when the unions assisted the lowest paid workers, car washers, in achieving their higher pay goals. Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?

The Labor movement has adapted to changing times. A prime example is how the auto workers union has taken creative ways in wage and benefit programs and enabled the US auto industry to become a leader once again.

Noel Casey was born in Quilty, County Clare. His father Frank Casey was a contractor and mother Molly Casey was a shopkeeper. He has two brothers, Brian and George, and a sister

Joan. At age 19 he immigrated to Montreal, Canada working as and orderly in hospitals before coming to New York in 1963. His first job here was also as a hospital orderly. He became of member of Local 144 of the Hotel Union until 1969 when he joined Carpenter's Union 608 as a first year apprentice. In his 30 plus year career he worked on such New York landmarks as the original World Trade Center, The Hayden Planetarium, and Madame Tussauds Museum.

## TOM CHAMBERLAIN

Current company/position: President Oregon AFL-CIO

Place of Birth: Whidby Island, Washington

Where you live: Portland, Oregon

First Job: Newspaper delivery

What it taught me: At 11 delivered the morning newspaper seven days a week, rain or shine.

I learned to get up early, be on time and work hard. The station manager hired and fired on a whim. We were powerless. Now I know we needed a voice on the job

Status: Married

Family: Victoria Chamberlain (wife), Stacy Chamberlain Canode (daughter); Joseph Chamberlain (son) Meghan Salinas (daughter)

Three things people would be surprised to know about me:

1. Irish philosopher Ernan McMullin (1924-2011) is my cousin.
2. I am a citizen of Ireland and the United States.
3. Sang with a Rhythm and Blues Band.

Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view?

As a percentage of the workforce, union representation is a third of what it was three decades ago. That said, the labor movement is still the largest most powerful force for the American Workers. The evolution of labor's grassroots political program has been critical in national, state and local elections. While corporate America may own the airways labor owns the door step.

Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?

The labor movement must be viewed as the voice of all workers. To succeed requires deepening alliances with like minded groups in local communities. The development of new types of membership for those workers who may never have a union in their workplace. National and state labor movements must establish ordinances and legislation that foster opportunities to organize and create middle class jobs.

Since 2005, Tom Chamberlain has served as President of the Oregon AFL-CIO. A native Oregonian, Tom served in the United States Air Force from 1973 to 1976. Becoming a Portland fire fighter in 1977. Elected in 1988, Tom served 10 years as IAFF Local #43's Secretary-Treasurer; and as President from 1998-2004. Tom served as Vice President of the Oregon State Fire Fighters Council in 1994-96 and 1998-2003; and then as President from 1996-98. Governor Ted Kulongoski hired Tom as a senior policy labor advisor in 2004, a position he held until running to serve as President of the Oregon AFL-CIO.

## MATTHEW CHARTRAND

Current company/position: Business manager Ironworkers Local 1361

Place of Birth: Brooklyn, NY

Where you live: West Islip, NY

First Job: Cutting lawns

What it taught me: That if you want something you have to work for it

Status: Married

Family: Wife Lori, Son Matthew Jr., Daughter Jade, Son Michael, and Maggie.

Three things people would be surprised to know about me

1. Hate to be alone
2. Like to cook

Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view?

Yes it is, and I believe its the only way to close the gap between working men and women and owners.

Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?

Yes, we do need to adapt to changing technologies and regulations. In my industry, iron workers, it is safety.

Matthew Chartrand is the proud grandson of Neil and Florence Devlin who immigrated to the USA from Ireland in the early 1900s.

# *Cement & Concrete Workers District Council*

2918 35th Avenue, Astoria, NY 11106  
Telephone: 718-392-5077 Facsimile: 718-392-5087

## *Congratulations*

*to All of tonight's*

*Honorees*

*and*

*Especially*

# *Maurice Foley*

*Cement & Concrete Workers  
Local 189A*

Member of the  
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**Strength:** a Concrete Advantage when we talk about your safety.

# IRISH LABOR 100

After graduating college and running his own home improvement business, Matt started working as a Local 361 Apprentice in 1993 for Williams Erectors on the Underwriters Lab in Melville. He graduated to Journeyman in 1996. As a Journeyman in 1997 he worked for Falcon Steel on the 63 Street Subway project in the Raising Gang as a Connector. He also worked as a Connector in 1999 on the Korean Airlines JFK job. From 1999-2000 Matt worked for A.J. McNulty in various positions including bolting up, and raising gang. In 2002 he was the Shop Steward for FHJ Associates on the Shoreham & Edgewood projects.

Other projects included the Williamsburg Bridge as a Foreman for Yonkers Construction, and the Whitestone Bridge for Nab Construction. Matt was appointed Assistant BA/Vice President of Iron Workers Local 361 in 2004-2006. He was elected President in 2008. In July 2013, Matt became the Business Manager/FST. In 2009 Matt was appointed by Steve Levy, the Suffolk County Supervisor, and approved by the Suffolk County Legislature as a member of the Suffolk Planning Commission, reviewing major projects in the county. Currently Matt resides in West Islip with his lovely wife Lori and their four children.

## RICHARD CHRISTY

Current company/position: DCM Erectors/ Ironworker

Place of Birth: Dublin, Ireland

Where you live: Brooklyn, NY

First Job: Fitter's Helper

What it taught me: Basics of mechanical and structural construction

Status: Married

Family: Dyanna, Fiona

Three things people would be surprised to know about me

1. I'm an avid fisherman
2. I love to cook
3. I'm very calm under pressure

Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view? Construction is a sign of a healthy economy. Where would your office be without us? Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?

Yes. Advancing techniques and technology to enhance production and safety.

Richard Christy was born in Dublin, raised in Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan. Immigrated to New York in June 2001. He watched the Towers fall a few short months later. He worked his way into Ironworkers Local 40 and now finds himself rebuilding the most important project in New York City.

## PATRICK CULLEN

Current company/position: New York State Supreme Court Officers Association

Place of Birth: Bronx, NY

Where you live: Sleepy Hollow, NY

First Job: Lifeguard

What it taught me: The importance and responsibility of being put in charge of other people's well being.

Status: Single

Family: Bernie Cullen (father) Bridget Cullen (mother) Andy Cullen (brother) Jackie Cullen, Caitlin Cullen, Samantha Cullen (sisters)

Three things people would be surprised to know about me

1. I recently completed the Ironman Triathlon in Lake Placid.
2. I am a supporter of Arsenal FC
3. I do not eat seafood.

Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view?

The labor movement must be relevant no matter the economic climate. In fact, it must rise to the occasion during lean economic times. When the private sector is suffering, all fingers point to labor and people want to attack the benefits and protections that unions have worked incredibly hard to have enacted. It is vital for the labor movement to stand up to these frivolous attacks and maintain the safeguards it has always fought for.

Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?

The labor movement has always had to change with societal transitions. The new generation of workers have much different concerns than those of the generation that preceded them. Recognition of the new types of innovative benefits for workers and the ever changing technology that surrounds

us are but two of the ways unions can embrace developing norms in the world. Remaining true to the principles which led to creating organized labor while staying connected to the workers' needs will always allow adaptation to continue.

Patrick Cullen was born in the Bronx. He was raised in the Irish enclave of Woodlawn where he was active at St. Barnabas Parish through out his youth. He attended Cardinal Spellman H.S. and Iona College. After four years in the private sector, Patrick became a New York State Court Officer. He was promoted to Senior Court Officer in 2003 and promoted again to Sergeant in 2007. He found the desire to help his fellow officers and began to represent Officers in the Bronx as a delegate. In June of 2013, he was elected president of the NYSSCOA. He firmly believes that forward progress occurs in a climate of bringing innovations to members while always remaining true to the historic principles of organized labor. He is proud to be the grandson and son of Irish laborers and proud to have the responsibility of preserving the welfare and promoting progress for his members and their families.

## KEVIN DILLON

Current company/position: Retired

Place of Birth: New York

Where you live: Fairfax, VA

First Job: Construction, member of the Common Laborers and Hod Carriers Union

What it taught me: Dignity of labor and the values of union membership

Status: Married

Family: Peggy(wife), Michelle(daughter), Kevin(son), Richard and Kelly (stepsons) and Reine' (stepdaughter)

Three things people would be surprised to know about me

- 1: Love of family, friends and my faith.
- 2: Respect for all people.
- 3: Loyalty to the United States and to the principles it represents.

Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view?

Yes, especially now because of the demise of America's middle class principally caused by corporate greed and outsourcing resulting in a damaged economy and ratcheting down of wages. Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?:

Yes, because change is inevitable and with us always, failure to adapt to the 'new' economy will cause further and continuing damage to the labor movement. Labor must seek new approaches in partnering with corporate America for its fair share of profits while never abandoning the basic principle of the labor movement.

Kevin was born in New York in 1942 the second of five children of Anne and John E. Dillon. He was educated in Catholic schools for sixteen years graduating from St. Bernard College in 1964. Immediately following graduation he joined the United States Navy serving five years on active duty as a Naval Aviator.

He continued to serve for twenty-one years with the Naval Air Reserve retiring as a Navy Captain in 1990. Concurrently he completed a thirty-four year career as a commercial airline pilot with United Airlines retiring as B-777 Captain in 2003. While at United he held three elected union positions with Air Line Pilots Association and retired as an Executive President in 2003. Following his retirement he competed a Masters Degree and now serves on two non-profit Board of Directors and as an appointed member of the Personnel Advisory Board with the City of Fairfax, VA. He also holds state Supreme Court certification as a Mediator and Mentor in the State of Virginia.

## MAURA DONNELLY

Current company/position: Special Education teacher, NYC DOE/Hospital Schools

Place of Birth: Brooklyn, NY

Where you live: East Village, New York City

First Job: Librarian at Sachem Public Library, Lake Ronkonkoma, NY.

What it taught me: You cannot read on the job, even in a Library. Seriously, the importance of being punctual, competent and belonging to a Union.

Status: Single

Three things people would be surprised to know about me

1. Four of my Great, Great Grandfathers fought in the American Civil War. On the Union side of course!
2. I have been to Ireland 29 times.

3. My roots in the US go back to the late 17th Century. My ancestors arrived in the US in the 1680s.

Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view?

Absolutely, the labor movement is more relevant than ever. Not since the time of the Gilded Age has the American worker been under such assault. All of the gains we have made as a society; the 40 hour work week, fair wages, safe working conditions and child labor laws could all disappear tomorrow.

Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?

The labor movement must find a way to connect with the masses of frustrated working people who desire a decent life. It is a race to the bottom for so many working Americans today. Also, the trade unions must build alliances with other movements, immigrants rights groups, disenfranchised young people, the Occupy movement and environmental groups. Perhaps it is time for a Labor Party in the United States.

Maura Donnelly was born in Brooklyn, NY to Bernard (UFA) and Mary McKeon Donnelly. Her paternal grandparents arrived in New York in the 1920s from Offaly and Mayo. Her maternal ancestors were famine era refugees from Donegal and Cavan. Maura is the daughter, granddaughter and great granddaughter of proud union members. She has been a member of the UFT for 18 years. She has worked as a classroom teacher, early intervention teacher and itinerant teacher. She is currently working as a Hospital Schools teacher at Mt. Sinai Psychiatric. Maura was a delegate to the UFT's Delegate Assembly and active in District 1 (Lower East Side) political campaigns and outreach. She was actively involved in the Gore, Kerry and Obama presidential campaigns. In addition to her undergraduate and graduate work, Maura studied with Sean Sweeney at Cornell University's School of Labor Relations.

Her childhood heroes were Mother Jones, Elizabeth Gurley Flynn and Woody Guthrie.

## MAUREEN DONNELLY

Current company/position: SAG-AFTRA National and Local Boards and NY VP; Chairman SAG

MPPWF, Treasurer SAG Foundation

Place of Birth: New York

Where you live: New York and Florida

First Job: Teacher

What it taught me: I prefer to learn, not teach.

Status: Married

Family: Husband Dan Ingram

Three things people would be surprised to know about me

1. Member of Students for a Democratic Society mid-sixties.
2. Worked on Wall Street writing about stocks with Harvey Milk before both our lives turned in a different direction.
3. When I was five, I determined I would be a trapeze artist and a nun.

Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view?

Absolutely, more so than ever. Where did the middle class go? Once union membership declined, American society started retreating.

Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?

Of course. Unions should never have ignored the educated, white collar professionals and "professionals" (as opposed to those who work in a craft or trade) should not have thought they were "above" needing a union. How's that going now that you've made no progress and stood still for the last decade?

Maura Donnelly met her husband Dan Ingram, a DJ, voice-over artist, and union officer and activist, working to merge SAG and AFTRA 30 years ago. Maureen was elected in August to the first SAG-AFTRA National and NY Local Boards and as a NY VP. She served for over three decades on the SAG and AFTRA Boards, as NY SAG President and SAG National VP. She is the Chairman of the SAG MPPWF (emergency assistance fund) and Treasurer of the SAG Foundation. Maureen was born in New York to William A. Donnelly, professor emeritus of Journalism, SUNY, and Marion (Smith) Donnelly, both raised in Queens Village. The oldest of nine, Maureen was raised in Minnesota, before moving back to New York as an actor and member of AEA, SAG, and AFTRA.

## JOHN DUMAS

Current company/position: Local 103, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Place of Birth: Boston, MA

Where you live: Quincy, MA

First Job: Delivering eggs throughout the neighborhood.

What it taught me: Hard work, determination, taking pride in what you do, and treating people the way you want to be treated.

Status: Married

Family: Margie (wife), Audrey (daughter) her husband Gene, Billy (son) his wife Julie and Cooper and Jack (grandsons)

Three things people would be surprised to know about me

1. I have a twin sister Joan.
2. I have had trouble with hearing since I was a child and I have only 30 percent hearing to this day.
3. I am a political junkie, from national all the way down to local politics.

Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view?

Labor unions are responsible for creating the middle class. All of the benefits that people take for granted today, the five day work week, overtime pay for working over 40 hours per week, etc, all came from the labor movement. Even today, the companies that will not allow their workers to unionize still provide good pay and benefits for fear of having to deal with the power of their workers unionized.

Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?

I believe that some unions have changed over time, while others have stayed the same. I think that unions that are caught up in social issues, like some unfortunately do, take their focus away from where it should be - getting jobs for the members, regaining lost and new market share, and forging a stronger middle class that provides working families better with better pay, more benefits and pensions, and more of a say in the workplace.

John has been a member of Local 103 IBEW for over 35 years. He has had the honor of serving as the union's President for the past 17 years, during which time he has made it his focus to encourage members, especially younger members, to take control of their future by giving back to their neighbors and their union. John lives in Quincy, MA with his wife Margie. They have a daughter Audrey, and a son Billy, a son-in-law Gene and daughter-in-law, Julie. John also has two grandsons, Cooper and Jack.

## JOHN EGAN

Current company/position: Building Resident manager

Place of Birth: Dublin, Ireland

Where you live: 778 Park Avenue New York, NY

10021

First Job: Assistant Manager of Dublin Electrical store (by day) Musician (by night)

What it taught me: How to interact with people from an early age

Status: Married

Family: Wife Colette and son Brandon

Three things people would be surprised to know about me

- 1: I don't like vegetables.
- 2: Don't like anything to do with needles/shots/blood drawing.
- 3: Always hated cold weather, even when I played sport.

Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view?

The labor movement is more relevant today than ever. The fastest growing sector of jobs are low-wage jobs with high turnover, as they were in the early days of the labor movement. These workers are fighting to come together to raise standards and demand job protections and benefits. The middle class would not exist it were not for unions, and as the middle class continues to get squeezed we need to look to the labor movement for preservation.

Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?:

We need to continue to organize non-union workers, and see how our struggles are connected. In my sector, building service, we know how important organizing is. If one employer gets away with hiring non-union labor, the next one will do it, and then the next one, so that before we know it we've lost density and power. We must always look beyond ourselves, as



# CONGRATULATIONS

TO ALL OF TONIGHT'S  
HONOREES  
AND ESPECIALLY

# MAURICE FOLEY

**CEMENT & CONCRETE WORKERS UNION**  
**LOCAL No. 18A**

# IRISH LABOR 100

our fates are tied.

Born in Dublin, John enjoyed a successful career in the music industry in Europe before immigrating to America in the early 1990s. He has been a union member on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean since the 1960s. Currently John holds the position of Resident Manager of a midtown Park Avenue building and serves as an Executive At-Large Board Member of Union SEIU 32BJ for the last 14 years. John is an active member of several Resident Managers Clubs in New York City and is a current member of Ancient Order of Hibernians. John is a Member of the Board of Directors, Founding Father and President of the Hibernia Provident Society. The Hibernia Provident Society is a residential building managers club in Manhattan and as such he plays a vital and active role in all of the committees of the Society.

John says that the 32BJ School played a major role in his career development and in obtaining the position he has as a Resident Building Manager. The curriculum of the 32BJ Thomas Shortman Fund at the Union School taught him the necessary skills to be better prepared for the high-tech demanding position of the present day Resident Manager.

John is married to Colette. They have one son Brandon who has just started school in LaGuardia High School of Music and Performing Arts in Manhattan. "America has been good to us" John says. "If you are prepared to study hard for whatever field you wish to enter, this is the best country in the world to do so."

## DR. JOSEPH J. FAHEY

Current company/position: Catholic Scholars for Worker Justice, Chair  
Place of Birth: Bronx, NY

Where you live: White Plains, NY

First Job: Stock boy at Safeway Stores

What it taught me: The value of hard work to get somewhere in life and the absolute necessity of a labor union to protect workers.

Status: Single

Family: Daniel, Michael, Kathleen

Three things people would be surprised to know about me

1. I like to cook.
2. I love poetry.
3. I am shy.

Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view?  
Yes! Unions are organizing fast food workers, janitors, and other poorly paid workers like never before. Labor is fast becoming international and much more powerful. Labor is the one force that capitalism still feels it has to crush; this is witness to labor's power and respect.

Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?

Continue organizing poorly paid workers. Make much better use of the mass media to tell people that we gave this country not only weekends but a thriving middle class.

Co-Founder of Catholic Scholar for Worker Justice. Professor of Religious Studies and founder of the B.A. in Labor Studies at Manhattan College. B.A. and M.A. from Manhattan College; Ph.D. from New York University.

## HENRY J. FARRELL

Harry J. Farrell is the President of Utility Workers Union Of America Local 1-2 at 5 West 37th Street New York, NY 10018. Mr. Farrell is a Vietnam era Vet (U.S. Air Force). He was born and raised in Queens, NY and began working at Consolidated Edison in 1964. He worked his way up through the ranks and became a High Voltage Troubleshooter for the Emergency Bureau at Con Edison. During his 35 years at Con Edison he received numerous commendations for a job Well done in helping customers and restoring power to their homes and businesses.

During President Farrell's career he earned his certificate as a Certified Alcoholism Counselor in 1985 from the Institute Of Alcohol Studies at South Oaks Training Program for Alcohol Counselors. Mr. Farrell is a strong advocate for workers' rights as well as the conditions of a safe work environment. On October 3, 1997 he received "The 6th Annual CFR Award." The award was given for "His Untiring Efforts" within the Labor Movement.

Over his professional career Mr. Farrell has been active in various capacities and participated in many speaking engagements including educating elementary, middle and high school students on the effects of alcohol on our youth. Mr. Farrell was elected to Senior Business Agent in 1999 and held

that elected position until 2005. He then went on to run for President of the U.W.U.A. Local 1-2 and won that election. In his current position as resident, Mr. Farrell represents 10,000 members in the largest of all locals in the Utility Workers Union of America. Harry J. Farrell has received many awards and honors including The Mickey Diamond Award in Las Vegas at the Labor Assistance Professional Convention and the Troubleshooter Badge of Honor in 2006. In 2008 he received the 6th Annual Award from the NCADD for his "Significant Contribution in the field of Alcohol and Drug Addiction."

Farrell resides in Baiting Hollow, New York with his wife Sherry. They have four children: James, Brian, Kevin and Timothy, and five grandchildren: Cassie, Lauren, Makayla, Brian Jr., and Alyssa.

## SUZANNE FINN

Current company/position: IBEW Washington

D.C., Business Development Specialist

Place of Birth: Hartford, Connecticut

Where you live: Arlington, Virginia

First Job: Roofer's helper for my dad when I was 15

What it taught me: Working with my dad on roofing side jobs in the summer when I was 15 taught me to push myself mentally and physically. He was the toughest boss I ever had. I learned that while I was not as strong as my father's first choices in helpers (my brothers), I could be quick, tough and a fast learner

Status: Married

Family: Bobby Crider (husband), Rory Michael Finn Crider (daughter, age 5)

Three things people would be surprised to know about me

1. I have a black belt in karate.
2. I went to Africa last year and helped build a medical clinic in Najja, Uganda.
3. After Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, I volunteered with an all-female group tearing off and putting on 10 new roofs in Louisiana.

Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view?  
The labor movement is probably more relevant in today's economy. The middle class, both union and nonunion, is the soul of this country and while the road is tougher for organized labor these days, when labor has gains, the nonunion eventually benefits too, whether it's with prevailing wages or competition. Middle class workers need to stop fighting each other. When the nonunion worker says "I don't have that so you shouldn't have it either," we need to change that around so the nonunion worker says "how can I have that too?"

Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?

I believe that many labor organizations have adapted, while others have not. While the message of safety, good working conditions, good wages and benefits should be priorities throughout the country, our messages and actions need to be adapted to each region. What works on the East Coast might not work in the Mid-West or South, and what works in the South probably won't work in the West.

Suzanne's first introduction to labor was at birth. Her dad was a journeyman roofer and later business manager of Roofer's Local 9 in Hartford, Connecticut. After graduating from college, she worked for her father's local union. While attending UMass for a graduate degree in Labor Studies, she began working as a researcher for IBEW Local 103 in Boston. She has also worked for the Building Trades Department in Washington, D.C. as a researcher and has been an organizer with District 1199 Healthcare Workers in Hartford. Suzanne currently works for the IBEW in Washington, D.C. as a Business Development Specialist.

## KEVIN FLYNN

Current company/position: Tishman Construction,

Superintendent, retired Local 3 Electrician

Place of Birth: NY, NY

Where you live: Whitestone, NY

First Job: Macy's, Herald Sq.

What it taught me: The great diversity of our city

Status: Married

Family: Ellen (wife) Catherine Anne (23), Kevin Seamus(21)

Three things people would be surprised to know about me

1. Would love to be able to sing well.
2. Was a cub scout, loved the uniform.
3. Sang in the school choir.

Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be

your main arguments affirming this view?:

Absolutely. Who would champion the causes of working men and women? Who would be there to advocate for the middle class? Who would be there to fight for the underprivileged? These issues and so many more are the essence of our being.

Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?:

Adaptation to a changing environment has always been part of labor's philosophy.

Born in Manhattan lower East side. Formative years spent in the Inwood section of Manhattan and Kingsbridge section of the Bronx. Youngest of five children. Parents born in Ireland. Father James (Strokestown, Roscommon), Mother Anna Mae (nee Tivnan) from Sligo (Ballymote). Educated at St. Jude grammar school, Mount St. Michael Academy, College of Santa Fe. A 40-year proud member of Local 3 I.B.E.W (retired). Currently employed by Tishman Construction, superintendent at Tower 1 WTC. Husband, father of two, Catherine, Kevin Seamus.

## MAURICE FOLEY

Current company/position: Cement and Concrete

Workers' Union Local 18A/Business Manager

Place of Birth: Ballylanders, County Limerick.

Where you live: Mahopac, New York

First Job: Painter

What it taught me: Maurice's first job as a painter taught him on the job technical experience. But more importantly Maurice learned from that job was to not think of just the next paycheck but to think of the long term future. So Maurice decided that if he was going to stay in America he would need a job where he could grow professionally, that offered security and medical benefits and that was a profession he could be proud to be a part of.

Status: Married

Family: Teresa Foley (wife), Tara Jean, Dianna, Deirdre and Sandra (4 daughters), Dillon, Hunter, Brianna and Connor (4 grandchildren)

Three things people would be surprised to know about me

1. Maurice worked for 5 years in London and attended Tulls Hill High School in Brixton.
2. Maurice and his wife Teresa were sponsors of Project Children and sponsored girls from Northern Ireland to live with their family. Not only did Maurice And Teresa, who are both Catholic, want to sponsor the girls, but they wanted to sponsor Protestants to offer a hand across the aisle in troubling times and teach their daughters about compassion and giving.
3. Maurice likes to travel every year to the All-Ireland Hurling Finals, regardless of which team may be playing.

Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view?

Proof of the labor movement's relevancy is Local 18A. It was organized April 13th 1903 and is still going strong today. Labor is the American people who have grown, are more educated, have more experiences and who have demands for their rights and the relevancy is shown as the labor unions continually negotiate for better wages and benefits and ensure safety on the job for its members.

Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?

Labor and the construction unions have continually adapted since their inception. To remain relevant, labor unions have to adapt to the needs of the customer, industry and the labor force itself.

One example is our union has been working closely for the past few years with developers by creating, driving and enforcing an apprenticeship program. This program enhances the delivered labor product, increases efficiency for the industry and empowers our labor force due to the increase training. Another example is Project Labor Agreements which created substantial savings to the developers.

Maurice immigrated to the United States in 1963. He joined Local 18A in 1971. With dedication to his craft and commitment to his fellow workers he ascended the ranks and is currently the Business Manager. He is also the Vice President for the Concrete Workers District council and Trustee of the Funds of District council #16. Maurice is a member of the NYS Political Action Committee. He has received many awards for his dedication, some examples are: Campbell-Houlihan Award 1988-Donegal Football, Guest of Honor 1999-Limerick Hurling, Gael of the Year 2001-United Irish Counties, Grand Marshal St.

Patrick's Day Parade, Queens, Guest of Honor 2003 GAA of NY, Grand Marshal St. Patrick's Day Parade 2011,Mahopac. Maurice is involved with the committee which renovated "Gaelic Park" and is continuing its growth by promoting Irish culture.

## COLLEEN CRAWFORD GARDNER

Current company/position: Assistant to the President, New York State United Teachers (NYSUT)

Place of Birth: Teaneck, NJ

Where you live: Niskayuna, NY

First Job: A summer CETA job, helping out in my junior high school

What it taught me: How important federal government programs are to help young people get job experience

Status: Married

Family: Spouse Christopher Gardner, daughters Caitlin and Caroline Gardner

Three things people would be surprised to know about me

1. I am the oldest of eight children and came from a family that struggled financially. Things got worse when my father left us and we had to rely on public assistance. If it wasn't for public funding for financial aid, work study, loans and TAP, I would not have gone to college.
2. I first became involved in the labor movement as a teenager. My family would support farm workers rights by handing out leaflets in favor of the grape and lettuce boycott in front of grocery stores. We were often successful because customers were kindly take the leaflets from us and few store owners would make us leave.
3. I like to travel around the country and to other countries, but my favorite place to travel is New York State. The state has so much to offer and I try to promote it whenever I can.

Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view?:

Absolutely! I have seen too many workers who are struggling and are taken advantage of by their employers. The problem has grown worse as union density has declined. Fewer workers have pensions, health care, paid sick days, vacation, or dignity and respect on the job. Too many employers think that they can violate the most basic labor laws such as minimum wage and safety with impunity.

Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?:

Labor has to show workers in the growing industries such as professional and white collar workers that unions play an important role for all workers. Labor needs to overcome the unscrupulous tactics that employers use to prevent workers from having a voice at work through a union.

Following six years of state government service, Colleen is happy and proud to be back in the labor movement as Assistant to the President of the New York State United Teachers, Richard Iannuzzi. Prior to joining NYSUT in June 2013, Colleen worked at the NYS Department of Labor and the NYS Insurance Fund. Under her leadership as Commissioner of Labor from March 2010-July 2012, Colleen advocated for the Wage Theft Prevention Act, the Domestic Workers Bill of Rights, and the Construction Fair Play Act. She worked for the NYS AFL-CIO for 23 years, supporting organizing and community services.

## ANN GARVEY

Current company/position: United Federation of

Teachers Health Consultant for the Retired

Teachers Chapter

Place of Birth: New York City

Where you live: Great Neck, NY

First Job: As a college freshman I worked as a counter waitress at a luncheonette

What it taught me: In my first position as a behind the counter waitress I learned the importance of accommodating the customer with efficiency and a pleasant demeanor.

Status: Married

Family: Husband John, Son William, Daughter-in-law Carol, Granddaughter Sara

Three things people would be surprised to know about me

1. I believe war should be a last resort; nevertheless, I am fascinated by military history, especially histories concerning World War I.
2. In my fantasy life I am an accomplished Irish step dancer and Irish musician. Alas, in reality I am not.

Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view?  
The labor movement is as essential today as in



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# IRISH LABOR 100

the past. Without the contractual guarantees won through collective bargaining the work environment, salaries, benefits and pension rights are in danger of severe erosion. It's no secret that teachers have been in the crosshairs of those who would eliminate or substantially reduce

hard-won benefits. Without the support and negotiating skill of unions such as the United Federation of Teachers, the teaching profession would become even more subject to teacher turn over. To insure that the teaching profession attracts talented individuals willing to make a long term commitment, there needs to be support for those willing to undertake the challenges presented in today's schools. Unions are essential to ensuring that support.

Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?

Over the years the United Federation of Teachers has not only represented teachers at the bargaining table, the union has also supported expanded teacher resources and sponsored training programs to address teacher effectiveness. Labor has adapted in the past and will continue to aid educators in meeting new challenges including the implementation of innovative technologies.

Ann's parents, Bill and Sheila Gorman, left Ireland in the spring of 1929 bound for the United States. Bill, a native of Offaly, and a maternal uncle (Paddy) were early supporters of the Transport Workers Union (TWU). Mike Quill, founder of the TWU, was considered a hero for bringing about monumental changes in the lives of busmen and subway workers. Ann entered the NYC public schools first as a teacher of general and special education students. She later became an Educational Evaluator whose responsibility involved the assessment of students with special needs. For many years both before and following her retirement Ann, as a Certification Specialist, provided information to aspiring teachers on achieving New York State teaching certification. In addition, as head of A. M. Garvey, Inc. she evaluated infants and pre-school youngsters for Early Intervention services. Ann is particularly proud of her leadership role in bringing about the legislation which mandates the teaching of Ireland's Great Hunger in every school in New York State. This was an initiative of her first term as president of the American Irish Teachers Association (AITA). Ann credits now Congressman Joe Crowley for successfully bringing her proposal through the legislative process. "The Great Famine Curriculum", developed under the dynamic leadership of Dr. Maureen Murphy of Hofstra brought this legislation to the classroom. Ann was also a contributor to the curriculum developed for the 9/11 National Memorial Museum, which aims to provide young people with information and perspective on that terrible time. With the dedicated collaboration of her husband John, she has written the AITA newsletter for many years. Also with John and the support of the Irish American Heritage and Culture Committee, NYC DOE and in collaboration with the UFT, she has chaired the Neil Shanahan Educators Seminar, which has been held each January at the American Irish Historical Society. Ann is grateful for her wonderful family, a stimulating career and the friendship of the many fantastic people in the Irish community.

## PETER GILMORE

Current company/position: Postdoctoral teaching associate, Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar  
Place of Birth: Manchester, NH  
Where you live: Pittsburgh, PA  
First Job: Working in a textile mill owned by major corporation as a sweeper, stacker and various odd jobs.  
What it taught me: The complete powerlessness and lack of individual dignity a worker experiences without a union.  
Status: Single  
Family: parents, Phil and Dorothy Gilmore  
Three things people would be surprised to know about me

1. Those who knew me from picket-lines, contract negotiations and plant-closing struggles might be surprised to know I took early retirement to get a Ph.D. in history.
2. Those who know about the union work and the history teaching might not know about my

passion for the Irish language.

3. Most surprising of all might be my addiction to the uproariously funny Canadian sit-com, Corner Gas.

Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments

affirming this view?

Current institutions may be less relevant, but given the obscene gap between the very rich and the rest of us, and what that implies for democracy, worker organization is a vital necessary not only defending people's rights and livelihoods, but for asserting the majority's claim to a stake in this world.

Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?

Two things: greater democracy and technological agility. Labor has for a very long time needed to work harder at transparency and involvement and empowerment of its members. The reality of social media gives labor no choice but openness and democracy and to communicate its message to union households and the wider world quickly and effectively through still-evolving new media.

Born and raised in New Hampshire. Attended school, made my home in Bridgeport, Connecticut, where in two terms on the city council worked on behalf of working-class interests. (Meanwhile, took classes at the Irish Arts Center in New York.) For close to 30 years worked for the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America (UE) as an editor and writer. I've lived in Pittsburgh, PA since 1987, where I've taught Irish language classes. I earned a Ph.D. in history in 2009 from Carnegie Mellon University with a study of early Irish migration to western Pennsylvania.

## BRENDAN GRIFFITH

Current company/position: NYC Central Labor Council, ALF-CIO, Chief of Staff  
Place of Birth: Yonkers, NY  
Where you live: Forest Hills, Queens  
First Job: Cook at a bar  
What it taught me: Don't be late to work  
Status: Married  
Family: Jennifer  
Three things people would be surprised to know about me  
1. Although born in New York, I am also an Irish Citizen.  
2. I had 8 years of Jesuit Education at Regis High School and Fordham University.  
3. Every time I am lucky enough to travel to a different city in the United States, I try to visit the local Ironworkers Union Hall to say hello and get a t-shirt.

Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view?  
The Labor Movement is more relevant today than ever before. Employers are finding new ways to make it harder for working people to earn a living. If a person is willing to work hard, the Labor Movement creates and protects opportunities for workers (whether or not they belong to a union) to provide for their families and retire securely.  
Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?

In a constantly changing, expanding, and interconnecting global economy, the Labor Movement has to find ways to adapt, expand, and become relevant to more workers, whether or not they are represented by a union. I believe that Unions are the best advocate for good wages, benefits, and safe working conditions and I believe that a Union contract is the best mechanism to achieve those things. However, the right to good wages, benefits, and safe working conditions belongs to every worker, whether or not they hold a union card.

Raised in Rockland County, NY, Brendan is the middle of 3 sons (Colin, Brendan, Sean) of a public school teacher and an attorney. As the son and grandson of Union members, Brendan was taught early on the importance of a Union in making sure that a family has a path to the middle class and the

means to stay there. After graduating from Fordham University, Brendan began an apprenticeship with Ironworkers Local #40 where he worked until accepting a position at the NYC Central Labor Council. Brendan is happily married to his wife Jennifer, whose own family's working class

roots come from IBEW Local 3 and the UFT.

## MICHAEL GUBBINS

Current company/position: Senior Vice President  
Place of Birth: County Limerick, Ireland  
Where you live: Battery Park City, Manhattan, NY  
First Job: Construction Superintendent  
What it taught me: The fundamentals of construction in high rise buildings and the importance of union skilled labor  
Status: Married

Family: wife: Caroline, son Conor  
Three things people would be surprised to know about me

1. I am from County Limerick. Most people think I am from County Cork because I grew up right on the border.
2. Farming and working on the land is one of the ways I enjoy my down time.
3. I also enjoy climbing mountains and motor sports.

Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view?  
Skilled labor is very important to the labor market today. The unions provide this.

Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?

Yes. They need to change to the changing times because some of the provisions in the labor contracts are integrated and to keep up with the changing times, unions need to stay competitive.

Michael Gubbins first came to the USA as a student to work for the summer. He returned each year and moved here full time in 1986 when he began his career in the New York Real Estate industry. Over the last 27 years, Michael's career has gone from strength to strength; he has taken the opportunity to give back to the Irish and Irish-American community, to help develop careers in the New York Real Estate arena. It has been an important goal of Michael's to support Irish business. Michael is currently a Senior Vice President of the Albanese Organization and over the last 13 years has developed and managed some of the most environmentally friendly and sustainable buildings in the United States. He is also the President of the Emerald Guild Society. He is a valued advisor to trade unions, local, and national government agencies.

## ANTHONY HARAN

Current company/position: Master Rigger @ DCM  
Place of Birth: Mayo, Ireland  
Where you live: Maspeth, New York  
First Job: Halal Meat Packers  
What it taught me: Halal is a Pakistani International company. It was my first opportunity to work with people outside my own culture. I learned responsibility and interacted with different people and soon realized the importance of working hard and team effort.  
Status: Married

Family: My wife Mary and children Roisin, Antoine, Aidan and Oisín  
Three things people would be surprised to know about me

1. I am a avid traveler and on one of my trips I rode from Hanoi to Ho Chi Minh City on a Minsk 90cc motorcycle.
2. I won U16 Mayo Vocational medal in Gaelic Football
3. I bungee jumped in Queensland, New Zealand from the Pipeline Bridge and at that time that was the highest bungee jump in the world.

Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view?  
The Labor movement is very relevant today and is more so now than ever. It protects the workers from exploitation and keeps the workplace safe at all times.  
Do you think that labor

has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?

Labor has to adapt to changing times and keep up to date with all laws and regulations on State and Federal level. The voices of the workers should be heard and the Labor movement well

represented at all times.

Tony Haran was born December 22, 1965 to Francis Haran and Peggy Callaghan-Haran, the first of three sons. He was born into a small farm in Temple, outside Charlestown, County Mayo. Tony attended St. Attracta's primary school and Charlestown Vocational School. He completed a welding course with Anco and in 1984 he immigrated to the USA. Tony was fortunate to come in contact with people who directed him to Local 361 and has worked with them and Local 40 ever since. He obtained his Master Riggers license in 2007 and presently works with DCM at the World Trade Center site.

Set head: Gerard Harney  
Use Gerard Harney jpg

Current company/position: Local 14-14B Operating Engineers

Place of Birth: Carmel, NY  
Where you live: Carmel, NY  
First Job: All Seasons Construction. A family owned and operated business

What it taught me: I was 12 years old when my father took me to work for the family business. Working alongside my brothers it taught me hard work and loyalty for the betterment of family.

Status: Married  
Family: Wife Kimberly Harney, daughters Kayleigh, Claire and Fiona

Three things people would be surprised to know about me

1. I am an avid reader.
2. I won an elected position on my Locals Executive Board.
3. I am a proud fourth generation Union Crane Operator in NYC.

Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view?

Yes, I believe the labor movement is completely relevant in today's economy. Unfortunately, people are always going to try to exploit the working men and women of the world. Whether it is this country, or a third world nation, people need to be organized to be protected.

Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?

Adaptation and change is how everything grows. However I believe given the distribution of wealth in this economy it should not just be one sided.  
Biography

I was born in Carmel NY to a large family of seven children. Growing up my father, a hard working union man, provided for us all while my mother cared for us. I attended Central Connecticut State University on a football scholarship where I was a two time team captain and earned my BA. I started my career in Local 14-14B in 1996 and have since worked hard to learn my trade. I am proud to say I have operated equipment in all areas of the industry. I was married in 2005 and have three beautiful daughters.

## DENNIS HART

Current company/position: Teamsters International Representative  
Place of Birth: Brooklyn, New York  
Where you live: Oakland, California  
First Job: Delivering Newspapers  
What it taught me: It provided me with a strong work ethic and a life lesson, that people are dependent on you, no matter what the circumstances you are required to be there.  
Status: Married  
Family: Wife, Eileen Marshall, Son, Justin and Daughter, Shannon.

Three things people would be surprised to know about me

1. I climbed Mount Fuji
2. I played pick up games with Julius Erving, Dr.J, where I realized early in life I would have to work for a living.
3. When I was 22, I spent an hour talking to Joan Baez, on a Los Angeles beach about how we were

**CONGRATULATIONS**

**Stephen Malone**

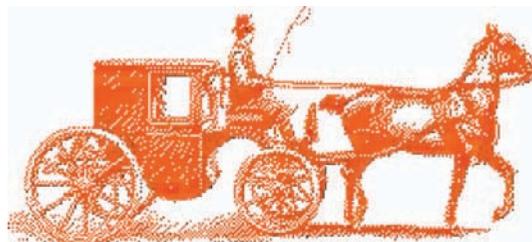
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# IRISH LABOR 100

going to change the world. Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view?

The labor movement is more relevant than ever. There are millions of workers who work two jobs and still can't get into

the middle class. The only hope they have is to organize.

Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?

Labor has to adapt, but it can't lose sight of its mission. We must be more active in the political world.

The future of Dennis Hart was foretold when he was born on Labor Day in September 1952 into an Irish-American Catholic family in Brooklyn, NY. His grandparents were from County Armagh and County Cork. Dennis's father was a member of TWU. After graduating high school, Dennis was drafted and spent two years in Japan as an ambulance driver. Dennis then traveled across country working his way to San Francisco, where he started working for UPS in 1976. In California he continued his studies in Labor/Journalism at San Francisco State. At UPS he was elected Shop Steward in 1978, to the Executive Board of Local 278 in 1982, and by 1985 he was promoted to full time Business Representative. In 1997, he ran the UPS strike in San Francisco and the next year was promoted to The International, as a Representative for the Brewery and Soft Drink Division, representing the 13 western states.

He currently chairs two Health and Welfare Funds for the Teamsters in the San Francisco Bay Area, and for the last 20 years he has chaired the Soft Drink and Grievance Panel for Joint Council 7 in Northern California. In San Francisco he met his wife, Eileen Marshall; he was after all her UPS driver. Their son, Justin is in the restaurant business and their daughter, Shannon, works for Senator Barbara Boxer. As one of 14 children, Dennis had to learn early how to negotiate to get what he wanted - a trait that serves him well to this day.

## THOMAS HICKEY

Current company/position: Local 40 Iron Worker  
Place of Birth: Brooklyn, NY

Where you live: Brooklyn, NY

First Job: Iron working

What it taught me: That hard work pays off

Status: Married

Family: Nelly (wife) Aidan and Kian (sons)

Three things people would be surprised to know about me

1. I'm a fourth generation ironworker on my fathers side and third on my mothers side
2. I have a passion for lifting weights and bodybuilding
3. I enjoy hanging out with my two boys and molding them into men

Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view?

Growing up in union household and as future fourth generation ironworker, it instilled pride in me. Through the 14 years I been working I seen changes resulting in less strength in the unions and labor movement. The banks and developers (the wealthy) wants more for less. They want to take from family's tables for more profit for them. Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?

I think hard union workers got to stick together like the old days. We got to work harder and show them that we are still a force. Right now we are going backwards. We are losing the battle because we not sticking together. Together we are strong but it has to start with our hard work. Union pride is dying. We must bring it back.

Biography

Born September 19, 1981 in Brooklyn New York.

Grew up as an inner city kid. Barely made it out of high school and went right to work. I'm 32 now, 14 years as a local 40 ironworker. Married with two boys and dog and living in a beautiful house in Brooklyn.

## ROB HILL

Current company/position: Vice President SEIU 32BJ and Director of Organizing

Place of Birth: St Vincent's Hospital, NYC

Where you live: Sunset Park, Brooklyn

First Job: Working demolition in high school  
What it taught me: I got the job with some friends in high school, tearing down old barns. The job was non-union and the boss wouldn't supply safety helmets. After

some near misses we got

our own. One day the side of a barn collapsed and the beam struck my friend in the head. The safety helmet saved his life. Taught me - Organize, work union and work safe.

Status: Married

Family: Autumn Weintraub

Three things people would be surprised to know about me

1. Wife Autumn is also an organizer. If she was Irish she might receive this award instead of me.
2. I can play a little guitar and sing a country song fairly in tune.
3. As a kid I used to march in the Nassau County St Patrick's Day parade with my father and our Irish Wolfhound Lochness.

Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view?

Absolutely, There is a direct correlation between decreasing union density and decreasing wages in the United States. That's a fact. We are seeing the replacement of "good union" manufacturing jobs with "non union low wage" service sector jobs. The only way to raise income and restore a middle class in the United States is to organize these service sector jobs and turn them into "good union jobs" just like the labor movement of the 30s, 40s and 50s turned bad manufacturing jobs into good jobs.

Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?:

Yes. First, we need to recommit ourselves to organizing. The union must again be the organization that fights for all working people, not just its own members. We must be seen as and be the voice of working people in this country fighting for economic fairness.

Rob Hill is Vice President of 32BJ Service Employees International Union (SEIU), New York's largest private-sector union and the country's largest property services union. Rob directs the organizing program for 32BJ. His tenure has been marked by unprecedented membership growth, including organizing over 10,000 cleaners and more than 15,000 security officers.

32BJ now stands at 145,000 members, more than twice what it had in 2006, with most of that growth coming from organizing.

The union's 145,000 members include building cleaners, superintendents, doormen, security officers, food service workers and other service workers in throughout the east coast. "We organize to get all workers, union and non-union alike, involved in a movement to get the country back on track, to be a country that is fair to working people and where working people can have a bigger and more powerful voice." Before coming to 32BJ, Rob organized with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters in New York, Baltimore and the South and with the Fraternity of Nurses and Healthcare Professionals in Kansas City. He was born in Manhattan, grew up in Long Island and attended Rutgers University in New Jersey.

## JOE HOLLAND

Current company/position: Professor of Philosophy & Religion, St. Thomas University, Miami Gardens, Florida

Place of Birth: New York City

Where you live: Miami, Florida

First Job: Director, Inner City Community Center

What it taught me: How wonderful most people are!

Status: Married

Family: Paquita (wife), Daniel (son), Natanya (daughter)

Three things people would be surprised to know about me

1. My paternal grandfather owned and ran two Irish bars in Manhattan, one just off Times Square and the other in Chelsea, and long served as head of the Saloon Keepers Association of NYC.

2. My paternal great-grandfather, Michael Holland of Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny, was the reportedly a leader of the Kilkenny farmers in their resistance against the British occupation, and the family home was burned to the ground by British troops.

3. Our children's first

language was Spanish, which was the primary language spoken in our home when they were young.

Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view?  
More than ever! It is one of the few global institutions capable of checking the power of rootless transnational capital and re-rooting the global economy back into the control of local people.

Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?

Yes, with two fundamental developments which are already happening: greater local strength and vision for local central labor councils; and greater international solidarity, networking, and strategy.

Joe Holland was born in New York City into an Irish family, with Sundays devoted to Irish music, dancing, and stories, and he partly grew up in his grandfather's Irish pub in Manhattan. He is married to the beautiful Paquita Martinez Biascochea from Puerto Rico, and they have 2 wonderful children and 4 beautiful grandchildren. Joe co-founded Catholic Scholars for Worker Justice and the National Conference on Religion and Labor. He is author of 14 books, including "100 Years of Catholic Social Teaching Defending Workers And Their Unions." Currently, Joe is Professor of Philosophy at St. Thomas University in Miami.

## ROBBIE HUNTER

Robbie Hunter was elected President of the State Building and Construction Trades Council of California at SBCTC's 61st convention in Santa Monica in October 2012. He is only the ninth person to hold this position in SBCTC's 112-year history. Of those nine, he is the third born in Ireland. SBCTC is the umbrella organization for 160 local unions covering 14 trades that represent in excess of 400,000 skilled construction workers, including 51,000 apprentices in the state of California. Previously, Hunter had served as Executive-Secretary of the Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council, where he negotiated agreements that incorporated all affiliated construction trades on individual projects, as well as master agreements with public and private entities like the Port of Los Angeles, LAX, Los Angeles Unified School District and Los Angeles Community College District, as well as the \$40 billion transit system of the Metropolitan Transit Authority, to be constructed under Measure B. He had held this position since March 2011. Before that, he was Council Representative for the Council, starting in 2009. During very difficult municipal bankruptcies and financial shortfalls, he was assigned public sector contract negotiations and representation, as well as organizing in north Los Angeles County. Hunter is an Ironworker, and was the president/business agent of Local 433, Structural Ironworkers, from 2003 to 2009. He served on the board of the District Council of Ironworkers for California and Nevada, and as a board member/apprenticeship instructor/trainer for the Joint Labor Management apprenticeship program in California and Nevada. Hunter moved to the U.S. in 1978, working in New York, Boston, and moving across the country to eventually become a member of Ironworkers Local 433 in Los Angeles, and for the next 25 years, building skyscrapers and bridges throughout California and Nevada.

Hunter is a native of Belfast. In 1972, he started his apprenticeship with the Irish Transport and General Workers Union as a steel erector (Irish for ironworker) working in the Harland & Wolfe

shipyards fabrication mill, where his great-grandfather, John Quinn, had helped organize the union in 1906 and built the gantry cranes on the Titanic in 1910. He was unable to work on the ship itself as he was Catholic and was excluded from the

shipbuilders' union. This sectarian standard stayed in effect until 1978, and was not fully undone until 1980. Quinn, ardent trade unionist and union organizer, enlisted on the crew of the Titanic, sailing the great liner from Belfast to the home port of Southampton, where he was removed from the

crew, along with 18 others, for union activity, being put ashore in Queensland Harbor, Ireland, the last stop of the Titanic before heading for the open seas of the North Atlantic, and New York City, where it would never arrive. John Quinn was a close friend and organizer with labor leaders James Connolly and James Larkin, both of whom often stayed in the Quinn home on Dock Lane, and later, 77 North Thomas Street in the Belfast Sailor's Town area of the docks. Indeed, when Larkin came to Belfast in 1904 to help organize the struggling labor movement, it was John Quinn who met him at the bottom of the gangway plank of the ship in 1904 as he also did with James Connolly, when he came from Scotland.

Together, they organized workers and led the general strike of 1907, documented in the book "City in Revolt" by John Gray. This strike directly led to the formation of the Irish Transport and General Workers Union, by a motion of John Quinn at the general membership meeting of December 1908, as recorded in the book "The Irish Transport and General Workers Union: The Formative Years, 1909-1923," by C. Desmond Greaves (See Chapter 1, Larkin's Irish Breakaways). The strike also led to the formation of the Irish Citizens Army that took part in the 1916 uprising against the British in Dublin, after which Connolly was executed by firing squad.

## SEAN KENNEDY

Current company/position: Yorktown Central School District/social studies teacher/union president

Place of Birth: Birmingham, Alabama

Where you live: Katonah, New York

First Job: Dishwasher at a local restaurant

What it taught me: Starting at the bottom of anything makes you appreciate the rise to the top.  
Status: Married. Gina, Sean, Luke, Bret and Cole  
Three things people would be surprised to know about me

1. I did not have a history of labor growing up in my family.
2. I am one of eight children, five who have been part of neons.
3. I played Division I baseball at the University of Dayton.

Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view?

I absolutely believe in the relevance of the labor movement today. As the economy grows more unsettled labor has always tried to provide stability and security. People in the private sector should not begrudge what labor has been able to provide to its members but should instead look at ways to be able to provide the same benefits to its employees.

Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?

I believe that any organization has to adapt over time. I think it is important that labor leaders organize their members internally and externally while also becoming politically active.

A P United States History Teacher 1994-present. President of the Yorktown Congress of Teachers 2009-present. Executive Vice President 2005-2009. Senior Building Representative 2002-2005. Varsity Baseball Coach 2002-present.

## JOHN KRAMER

Current company/position: Business Representative/Treasurer Executive Board IUOE Local 94

Place of Birth: Woodside Queens, NY

Where you live: Campbell Hall, NY

First Job: Newspaper Delivery Boy for Long Island Star Journal

What it taught me: You have to work hard to earn money

Status: Married

Family: Wife Jan, Children Timothy, Patrick, William, Matthew

Three things people would be surprised to know about me

1. Was an altar boy.
2. Like to work on my 1964 Thunderbird car.



Thank you to the  
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For honoring the centennial  
anniversary of the 1913 lockout!

**Congratulations to all of this year's honorees!**

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Irish and Irish-American Building Managers  
Michael Gubbins - President  
Michael O'Reilly - Vice President  
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**Cavan P & B Association of New York, Inc.**  
**Founded, 1848**

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**The Cavan P & B Association is proud to recognise our own**

**Michael O'Reilly**

**on being selected as one the "Irish Labor 100", 2013**

**Save the Dates!**

Our Annual Christmas party will be held on December 8, 2013.  
Our 166th Annual Dinner Dance, Sat. March 22, 2014 to be held at Riccardo's.  
Guest of Honor, John McGurrin, from Belturbet.

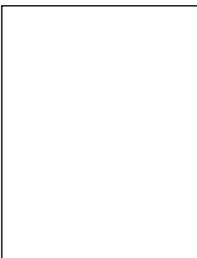
For information regarding either event please contact  
Mary O'Brien at (718) 672-5347.

New members are always welcome;  
please call (917) 337-7898 for information.

Liam Moffatt - President

Michael Givney - Secretary

# IRISH LABOR 100



3. I love animals. Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view? Yes, fighting for the middle-class to stop it from disappearing. Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing

times, and what form should any such adapting take? Yes, training to keep up with modern technology.

John W. Kramer, is a member of the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 94 for 35 years, presently serves as a Treasurer for the Union and Business Representative under Business Manager, Kuba Brown. John is a Trustee on the Health and Welfare, Annuity and Training Funds of Local 94. He also taught a Membership, Education and Mobilization for Organizing (MEMO) class, which teaches new union members of the value of organized labor.

John began his career in 1978 at the World Trade Center as a mechanic's helper and received his engineer's license one year later. Throughout the years John has held the positions of Assistant Chief and Chief Engineer before being appointed a Local 94 Business Representative in 1995. He has also served as an Executive Board member since 1982.

John was born on September 10, 1952 and raised in Woodside, Queens, where he attended St. Sebastian Elementary School. He went to Rice High School in Manhattan, where he was taught by the Irish Christian Brothers. John then attended N.Y.C. Community College. John and his wife Jan are the proud parents of their four sons Timothy, Patrick, William and Matthew. John is very proud of his Irish roots.

## ROBERT LENAGHAN

Current company/position: Major League Baseball Players Association/Assistant General Counsel  
Place of Birth: Queens, NY

Where you live: Massapequa, NY  
First Job: Third Mate, SS Brooks Range  
What it taught me: Responsibility, accountability and respect for the sea  
Status: Married

Family: Janet Lenaghan (wife), Delaney Lenaghan (16 year old daughter), Brian Lenaghan (13 year old son)

Three things people would be surprised to know about me

1. I assisted in putting out a fire on a ship in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean.
2. I sang backup for a rock band that won a battle of the bands in high school.
3. My college nickname was Yogi.

Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view? It is more relevant in today's economy than it ever has been. The middle class is being squeezed into non-existence with employee rights and benefits being attacked from all angles.

Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?

Labor absolutely needs to adapt to changing times and become relevant to employees in non-traditional tech-based jobs.

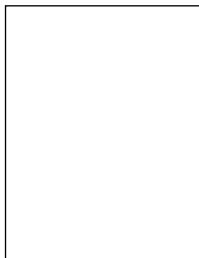
Graduated from U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in 1986. Sailed as deck officer (3rd and 2nd Mate) on U.S. flag ships 1986-1989. Graduated from Brooklyn Law School 1991. Staff counsel NYC Mayor's Office of Labor Relations 1992-1995. Associate at Jackson Lewis law firm 1995. Major League Baseball Players Association 1995-present.

Set head: John Littel

Use John Littel jpg

Current company/position: Union Representative (retired), United Brotherhood of Carpenters  
Place of Birth: Wilmington, Delaware

Where you live: Seattle, WA



First Job: Carpenter Apprentice

What it taught me: It taught me the value of work and a paycheck, and launched me on a career with life-long learning in a craft. It especially taught me the love of my craft and a passion and commitment

to being the best carpenter I could be. That passion and commitment continues to this day  
Status: Married

Family: Kathryn (spouse), daughters Sarah and Maureen

Three things people would be surprised to know about me

1. I have a degree in Construction Management.

2. I'm a published poet.

3. I make guitars.

Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view?

Yes, absolutely. I think collective bargaining in our changing economy continues to be a fundamental tool to protect decent wages and working conditions. The skilled trades continue to demand good wages and market share by virtue of their partnership with their employers in training and productivity. Also, the work with low wage workers in retail and service industries is critical to moving those workers into the middle class.

Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?

Some changes need to happen, especially increasing the diversity of the labor movement. I think these changes are happening. We're seeing not only the rise of workers of color across the sectors, but a rising focus on workers traditionally outside the labor movement. Labor will need to adapt to the changing pressures on health care and pensions, as well as continuing to find new ways to organize workers in an increasingly hostile environment towards unions.

Biography

John Littel spent his career in the carpentry craft, rising through the ranks as a journeyman carpenter and cabinetmaker. He finished his career as legislative and political director for the United Brotherhood of Carpenters in the Pacific Northwest. John continues to be active in the industry, teaching labor history to carpenter apprentices and working with high school educators around the State of Washington to increase funding for vocational education. John spends much of his time as a volunteer carpenter and project manager in Haiti, working with a group of architects and builders in a non-profit called Building Goodness Foundation.

## WILLIAM LYNN

Current company/position: Business Representative-IUOE Local 30  
Place of Birth: Bronx, NY

Where you live: Bethpage, NY  
First Job: South Oaks Hospital Apprentice/Mechanic

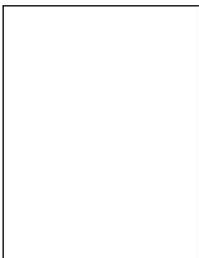
What it taught me: The value of working hard. Putting in an honest day's work for an honest day's pay.

Status: Married

Family: Susan (wife) children Joseph (9), Kayla (7), William (5) & Sean (3)

Three things people would be surprised to know about me

1. Volunteer Bethpage Baseball Executive Board
2. While I am the youngest of 8, my wife Susan is the youngest of 9.
3. Currently participating in the Energeia Partnership at Molloy. The Energeia Partnership is a



leadership academy dedicated to identifying and addressing the serious, complex and multi-dimensional issues challenging the Long Island region. Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments

affirming this view?

In today's economy with the widening gap in wage disparity between the one percent and the 99 percent, the labor movement has never been more relevant. Union representation consistently produces higher wages and better benefits for its members. Collective bargaining is the last bastion of the defined benefit pension system in our country. The new battlegrounds will be protecting these hard fought benefits and organizing the exploited un-documented worker.

Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?

Labor has to adapt to changing times. Firstly, by championing the plight of the un-documented worker in this country. By doing so it will raise the wages of organized labor by upward pressure.

William (Bill) Lynn was born in the Bronx, NY, the youngest of eight children of James and Briget Lynn, immigrants from County Mayo. At an early age, the Lynn family relocated to Copaigue, NY, where Bill graduated from Copiague HS in 1987. In 1990, Bill applied to the IUOE Local 30 Apprentice program hoping to follow in his father's footsteps, as a Stationary Engineer in Local 30. He was accepted and started his career as an Apprentice at South Oaks Hospital in Amityville, L.I. Bill rose through the ranks to become an Engineer and was elected as Shop Steward at the age of 24 to represent all the members of Local 30 at South Oaks Hospital. In 2004 Bill was brought into the Local 30 Business Office to fill the important position of Dispatcher. He was responsible for keeping all Local 30 job filled with Local 30 members. In 2006, Bill was promoted to Lead Organizer covering all of Local 30's jurisdictions.

He quickly targeted the Foxwoods Casino and Shelton, CT Board of Education as prime opportunities to be organized. Shelton's Board of Education was his first significant victory and first municipal contract negotiated in the State of Connecticut by Local 30. Foxwoods eventually followed after numerous attempts, but the groundwork for success had been laid down by his earlier efforts. His organizing successes were recognized by the International Union of Operating Engineers. In 2008, Bill was promoted to Business Representative in Local 30, where he represents over 1,000 Local 30 members in Nassau, Suffolk, and the five boroughs of NYC. He also serves as a Trustee for the IUOE Local 30 Benefits Fund and the Local 30 Political Action Committee.

In 2011, Bill was elected by acclamation to be the Recording-Corresponding Secretary of Local 30, and re-elected by acclamation in 2013 for a three year period. Bill represents Local 30 on numerous fronts including but not limited to the New York City Central Labor Council and Building and Construction Trades Council of New York City and Long Island. He is a graduate of Cornell University Labor Leader Program. Currently Bill resides in Bethpage, LI with his wife Susan and four children, Joseph (9), Kayla (7), William (5) and Sean (3).

## SEAN G. MACKELL

Current company/position: NYC Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO

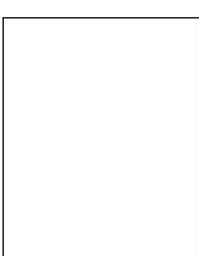
Place of Birth: New York City  
Where you live: Forest Hills, NY

First Job: Fence Construction

What it taught me: The value of hard work and seeing projects through to completion.

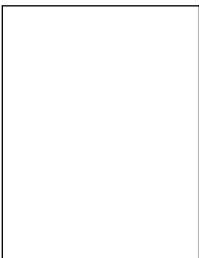
Status: Single

Family: Two Daughters: Charlotte, 9 and Eloise, 3.  
Three things people would be surprised to know about me



1. I have been a DJ since I was in High School.
2. I have worked in the advertising industry as an Audio Engineer.
3. In college I studied fine arts and have won awards for painting.

Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's



economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view? The labor movement is increasingly relevant. A slow economy can be spurred by a strong middle class. Workers today need to band together for a voice on the job in light of all the recent attacks on working

people across the country.

Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?

The labor movement must be a reflection of the people it hopes to represent. As younger workers enter the workplace and our society relies more on digital media, there is room for labor to adapt how it presents its message.

Sean G. Mackell was born in New York City in 1977. A graduate of St. Mary's High School in Manhasset, he attended the University of Hartford where he studied Music Production and Fine Arts. Currently the Program and Field Coordinator for the New York City Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, he is instrumental in numerous pro-worker initiatives throughout the city. Most recently, he helped coordinate the Central Labor Council and its affiliates' involvement in several City Council campaigns. Sean is the proud father of two brilliant and beautiful daughters, Charlotte & Eloise. They reside in Forest Hills, Queens.

## JAMES P. MAHONEY

Use James P. Mahoney jpg

Current company/position: Business Manager/Financial Secretary Treasurer Iron Workers Local 580

Place of Birth: Manhattan

Where you live: Rockville Centre, NY

First Job: Messenger

What it taught me: I delivered rolls of blueprints from a printers shop on the west side of Manhattan all over the city. I learned rolled paper is very heavy.

Status: Married

Family: My wife Larissa and Children Ryan 23 (Harvard 2011) Nadia 20 (Montclair junior) Caitlin 18 (St. John's freshman)

Three things people would be surprised to know about me

1. Was named after Jimmy Hoffa.
  2. Was an extra that appeared in "The Warriors."
- Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view? Relevant or not, Organized Labor has the task of being the only voice for working people in these United States. We still fight for the rights of all workers day in and day out.

Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?

We need to get into the social media world and bypass those that would silence our message.

Born and raised in NYC, Jim Mahoney comes from strong union family. Graduating from Power Memorial in 1980, Jim became an Ironworker in 1982 and worked his way up through the ranks. Today he is one of the most respected and aggressive leaders in the Building and Construction Trades.

Set head: Edward Mallon

Use Edward Mallon jpg

Current company/position: Field Representative - L.I.U.N.A. Local 147

Place of Birth: Bronx, NY

Where you live: Mahopac, NY

Status: Married

Family: Wife Lorraine, children Christy, Sean & Linda. 4 grandchildren

Biography

Edward E. Mallon, raised in the Bronx, NY, has been a proud and active member of the Local 147 Sandhogs union for 50 years, where he currently serves as Field Representative and formally held a position on the board. Local 147 belongs to the Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA). For over four decades, Edward has resided in Mahopac, NY, with his wife Lorraine of 47 years. He is the father of three children, Christy, Sean, and Linda, and grandfather of four grandchildren, with a fifth on the way. During his children's youth, Edward spent many years coaching baseball and soccer and also served as



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President of the Yorktown Youth Soccer Club. Outside his work with the Sandhogs, Edward enjoys traveling, playing competitive poker, and being active.

## STEPHEN MALONE

Current company/position: Teamsters Local 553/Malone Carriages  
 Place of Birth: Queens, New York  
 Where you live: Floral Park, Long Island  
 First Job: Horse Drawn Carriage Driver  
 What it taught me: Being a carriage driver taught me how to deal with people from all different backgrounds. Operating a carriage also taught me the unbelievable bond between man and horse, a bond that transcends far more than owner and equine. This bond can rarely be understood, unless you have experienced it.  
 Status: Married  
 Family: Charleen (wife), 3 sons Shane (13), Liam (11), Gavin (9)  
 Three things people would be surprised to know about me

1. I traveled ever summer to Banbridge, Co. Down and lived on a large beef cattle farm.
2. My biggest career moment as a carriage driver was leading the 2011 New York St. Patrick's Day Parade on the parade's 250th anniversary. This was one of the most special days in my life as I was able to share it one last time with my father, Patrick Malone. This was the last time we spent together riding up 5th Avenue pulled by my majestic horse Paddy, named after St. Patrick's Day because that was the day he arrived in the city in 2000.
3. I am the proud co-founder of an annual event known as Clip Clop NYC. This event was designed to educate the public and other equestrians about how we operate our industry. In conjunction to that it is also a fundraiser for Blue Star Equiculture, our primary retirement facility for our horses.

Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view?  
 Yes, just as it was at the beginning of the movement. When the industrial revolution began at the start of the 19th century, workers fought to improve their lives. Unions gave them a collective voice to be heard and get improvements in working conditions and a fair wage. It is just as relevant today in order to preserve the standards that have been gained over the years. A collective voice is as important today as 100 years ago.  
 Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?

Labor has been adapting and changing over many years. The diversity among the members represented, and new industries that they work in, is one example. Just as business changes so does labor. Labor understands business. Just look back on history how labor and management worked together to see our country get through World War II. When labor and management work together for the good of all it is a win for all. Unfortunately, it is not always the case, so labor people must support each other and stay strong.

My dad started my business in 1964 when he came here from County Louth as a blacksmith. After shoeing the carriage horses while driving a carriage at night to make ends meet, he decided to buy his first carriage in 1967. Stephen Malone has been a carriage owner operator for the past 26 years. Stephen has been president of the Horse and Carriage Association for the past five years and played an intricate part in the unionizing of the carriage industry. During Stephen's years as a carriage driver he has had the pleasure of doing jobs with Ronald McDonald House and has provided his carriages to the New York Yankees for Hope Week, which brought two young disabled men from Russia together for first time in 22 years.

## FRANK MASTERSON

Current company/position: City and County of San Francisco/Carpenter  
 Place of Birth: Co. Leitrim, Ireland  
 Where you live: Millbrae, CA  
 First Job: Apprentice Carpenter  
 What it taught me: Carpentry can be hard work and I needed to constantly improve my skills in order to stay employed.  
 Status: Married  
 Family: Married to Janette, son Patrick Joseph  
 Three things people would be surprised to know

about me

1. I competed in the cycling events at the National Senior Games and the Huntsman World Senior Games, this year, and won four gold medals.
2. I have the traditional Irish temper. Don't push the wrong button.
3. My first name is

actually James. People have always known me by my middle name, Frank. Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view?  
 I surely think the labor movement is relevant in today's economy. We need organized labor now, more than ever, to represent workers and save jobs. Our economy would be in deeper trouble than it already is without the good jobs and benefits that we are able to negotiate. Middle Class people, and those trying to get out of poverty, need the unions to help them and keep the economy growing.  
 Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?

I have been in the union for 40 years. We have changed with the times and we need to keep doing so. We have women and men, of all backgrounds who are working in solidarity as part of the labor movement. We need to keep the best of our traditions and learn new skills while continuing to work for safe, fair, and decent-paying jobs.

Frank Masterson was born November 21, 1950, and raised on a small farm in Co. Leitrim. At the age of 17, he started working as an apprentice carpenter; work was tough and wages small. Being the oldest boy of his parents' six children, he had to make a move. Frank immigrated to London in 1969. There, he worked as a carpenter by day and attended trade school by night. He moved to New York after four years in London and, on March 26, 1973, joined Carpenters Local 2117 in Flushing, NY. He has been a dedicated union member ever since, and he just received his 40-year service pin. In 1975, Frank transferred his book to Local 1243 in Fairbanks, Alaska. Frank's final move came in 1978, to the place he now calls home - San Francisco. He joined Local 22 when he arrived and, for the past sixteen years, has been elected Warden of Local 22 as well as a Delegate to the Northern California Carpenters Regional Council. He also represents Local 22 at various labor functions and charity events. Frank Currently works as a carpenter for the City and County of San Francisco. He was married to his lovely wife, Janette, in 1981, and their son, Patrick Joseph, was born in 1985. Frank loved to play Gaelic Football in his younger years, and is now an avid cyclist.

## MICHAEL J. MCCARTHY

Current company/position: Political Director, IATSE New Jersey (Stagehands Union)  
 Place of Birth: Westwood, NJ  
 Where you live: Dumont, NJ  
 First Job: Movie Theater Projectionist & Concert Stagehand

What it taught me: To work hard knowing that other workers count on you to learn the craft and stay safe.

Status: Married  
 Family: Spouse Marlene and children Michael, Jr. age 16, and William, age 12

Three things people would be surprised to know about me

1. I take on new tasks with a very big determination to get all the details perfect.
2. A sense of humor at times when people are very down.
3. Had a big interest in politics as a small boy and became Special Assistant to the President of the NJ Senate while attending grade school.

Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view?  
 Yes, labor is the backbone of our economy

because a large part of the middle class comes from organized labor and they make up the majority of our countries consumers of everyday goods and services. Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting

take?

Yes, such as retraining in the newest and latest advances in technology which is changing every day.

Mr. McCarthy attended Bergen Community College and Saint John's University School of

Insurance and Actuary Studies where he received his CPCU. He started his labor career at age 18 as a concert stagehand and has worked 30 years to better the organized labor movement. Mr. McCarthy was a two-time candidate for the NJ State Assembly.

## DENIS MCCARTHY II

Current company/position: IUOE Local 30 - International Union of Operating Engineers Trustee  
 Place of Birth: Bronx, NY

Where you live: Hawthorne, New York  
 First Job: Deli Counter Clerk

What it taught me: There's Gratitude in serving others - service with a smile; It's all about "the people;" treat people with courtesy, dignity and respect; the customers, co-workers, supervisor and subordinates, which by the way makes work more enjoyable and fulfilling! The customer is always right - even when they're wrong. Name and reputation are the most valuable resources of a business or individual; integrity and Hard Work are values that will follow you wherever you go.  
 Status: Married  
 Family: wife - Bridget (nee McGoohan) McCarthy, daughters Aileen Mary, Katherine Rose, son Denis Francis

Three things people would be surprised to know about me

1. I was the shyest, most introverted kid on the block, if not the neighborhood.
2. Learned to play the Piano Accordion, and beginner bagpipes.
3. Won several Waltz competitions.

Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view?  
 Labor will always be relevant in a modern and productive society; there will always be a need to advocate, defend and assist working men and women, whose dignity and basic human rights are threatened in the work place. Although many of Labors successes have become realized in laws that protect workers here in the U.S., many of these laws are threatened/ under-regulated by lack of agency funding and lack of oversight. American workers are unrepresented when their jobs are transported to foreign international markets which have little, or no employee protections, as evidenced by the enormous amount of slavery and human trafficking affecting many industries; an all time historic high of 30 Million worldwide. There is a new "Gilded Era" that Must be challenged; instead of oligarch's and Robber Baron industry tycoons who challenged Labor's early struggles, we now have international corporations abusing men and women who labor to serve the plutocracy of today's Gilded Age, under the ruse of a "global economy."

Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?

I believe Labor has to learn from its rich history, and apply those lessons learned to focus our vision of today, combined with concerted action, such as re-uniting the mission of the Labor movement, re-launching an educational labor campaign to all students, members and workers internationally, restructure Labor's political strategy to engage and improve dialogue across the aisle to all representatives. We must re-engage with both major political parties again. We also need to re-invest in new training, apprenticeship, certification and collegiate programs to keep up with rapid changes in technologies/ industries, and make union labor

more marketable and valuable to employers and industries in regards to training, safety, and competence. Labor may need to transform, consolidate and restructure some sectors, as well as increase organizing efforts for new emergent sectors. Lastly,

we must be vigilant in improving support, resources, and oversight to our individual locals, to encourage new leadership for generations to come.

Denis McCarthy II is Trustee of Local 30 of the (IUOE) International Union of Operating Engineers, has

been an active leader in his Labor Union, trade, and the Irish American community for many years. McCarthy, born in the Bronx, has deep roots that hail from Heir Island, Skibbereen, West Cork. Denis first joined SEIU Local 32-E, of the Service Employees International Union working as a Building Superintendent, in the North West Bronx. In 1996 Denis also joined IUOE's Local 30 Apprentice Training Program of the International Union of Operating Engineers becoming more involved in his Local Union; serving on the Credit Union Committee, Organizing Committee, the Political Action Committee, and as an Instructor for the Apprentice Training Program. Denis actively worked on several local 30 political campaigns, becoming elected as Conductor in 2004 and 2007, then as Trustee in 2010, and again in 2013. Denis successfully graduated Cornell's "Union Leadership Institute" in 2009, and continues Labor studies at the National Labor College; he has served his professional trade and Labor Union in numerous capacities; as President of NAPE - National Association of Power Engineers in White Plains, and as President of the NYELC - New York Engineers legislative Committee in NYC, where he spearheaded a campaign to preserve the integrity of the Refrigeration Engineers and Stationary Engineers Licenses, as well as advocate for enforcement of Civil Service Laws and Regulations. Denis continues to promote and preserve his Irish culture being active in numerous Irish organizations, currently serving as President of the County Cork BP&P Association, recently sponsoring a spectacular event to commemorate the Centenary of Irish Labor (1913-2013), and the significance of the "Dublin Lockout", at the Cork Club held on September 29th, 2013. Denis also serves as Vice President of the Francis P. Beirne Division, AOH, NY County - "The Parade Workers Division" and has volunteered working on the St. Patrick's Day Parade Cathedral and Line of March Committee for the last two decades. In 2012, Denis initiated anti-defamation campaigns opposing modern day racist bigotry and derogative marketing towards the Irish around St. Patrick's Day through the AOH. Denis is happily married to Bridget (nee McGoohan) and they live in Mount Pleasant, NY. They are the proud parents of three children, Aileen, Katie & Denis. Denis also serves on his Parish Mission team, the St. Dominic Council of the Knights of Columbus. Since, 2010 he has served the Town of Mount Pleasant on the Planning Board, and was recently elected to serve as Councilman of Mount Pleasant Town Board.

## EDWARD J. McELROY

Current company/position: President Emeritus American Fed. of Teachers; Retired CEO Ullico  
 Place of Birth: Providence, Rhode Island  
 Where you live: Washington, D.C.  
 First Job: Paper Boy (Part-time)

What it taught me: Responsibility, the importance of being dependable.

Status: Married  
 Family: Edwina - wife; children Kathleen, Mary, Steven, Elizabeth

Three things people would be surprised to know about me

1. I was a professional photographer for ten years while teaching school. Did weddings, baby pictures, insurance work, advertising and studio work.
2. I love vegetable gardening. When I lived in Rhode Island, I had a backyard plot - 25x15 and grew tomatoes, lettuce, peppers, eggplant, etc. Worked on garden every morning.
3. I swear out loud at other drivers with windows closed.

Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view?  
 Relevant and essential. Decline in middle class tracks the decline of labor movement. Want middle class and an effective democratic society - build the labor movement.

Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?:

Yes. Not change its values or principles but change its image and the issues it spends time, energy and effort on.



Compliments to the  
2013 Irish Echo Labor 100 Honorees



**Special Congratulations to the  
I.U.O.E. President  
James Callahan**



**I.U.O.E. Local 30 Business Representative  
William Lynn**



**I.U.O.E Local 30 Trustee  
Denis McCarthy**

From

The Officers, Staff & Members  
of I.U.O.E. Local 30  
Business Manager  
Jack Ahern



**Comhghairdeas**



**Denis McCarthy II**

**IUOE Local 30**

Trustee & Irish Labor 100 Honoree

*The County Cork B.P. & P. Association*

President & Corkman

*Francis P. Beirne Division 9, AOH New York County*

Vice President, & Dedicated Hibernian

*The McCarthy Clan - Heir Island & New York*

Son, Brother, Husband & Father



# IRISH LABOR 100

**E**dward J. McElroy, a life-long educator and Labor leader, served as Chief Executive Officer of Ullico Inc. for 19 months until December 2010. Having also been a Director and Chairman of the Audit Committee for more than five years, Mr. McElroy provided

perceptive vision, strategic positioning and financial management for Ullico. Mr. McElroy is also President Emeritus of the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO, having served as its president from 2004 to 2008. He served as Secretary-Treasurer of the AFT from 1992 to 2004. After beginning his career as a teacher in Warwick, Rhode Island, McElroy became president of the Rhode Island Federation of Teachers (AFT) at the age of 30. Throughout his years at the international union, Mr. McElroy led efforts to strengthen financial accountability requirements and was instrumental in AFT initiatives to harness technology in order to support, inform and mobilize union members. McElroy currently serves on the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee of Ullico, Inc. He also serves on the Board of America's Agenda-Health Care for All. A graduate of Providence College, he resides in Washington, D.C. and is married to Edwina B. Ricci. McElroy and his wife have four children - Kathy, Mary, Steven and Elizabeth, and four grandchildren - Kyle, Evan, Chloe and the late Noah Jordan.

## SEAN McGARVEY

Current company/position: President, Building Trades  
 Place of Birth: Philadelphia, PA  
 Where you live: Maryland  
 First Job: Golf Caddie  
 What it taught me: Perseverance! You can't make \$16 dollars if you don't get out of bed in the morning. And just because you show up, it doesn't mean you would get to caddie that day. But when you did and came home with \$16 dollars, you saw the pride in your parents' face that you were beginning to understand the values they were teaching you.  
 Status: Single  
 Family: Daughters Kerri Ann and Kelsey Marie  
 Three things people would be surprised to know about me

1. Due to back problems the last 20 years, I enjoy a good pedicure because it's too hard for me to take care of my toes. Plus, my daughters enjoy the bonding time.
2. I really do have a sense of humor, and I believe that having fun while one works hard makes for a happy person and a productive leader.
3. At age 51 I finally got my first pet. A French bulldog named "Meany", and yes he is named after the great George Meany, a man I admire most in labor.

Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view?  
 Yes, I believe the Labor movement is more relevant than ever. My area of expertise is construction, so I will speak to that. Throughout the history of the Building Trades we have made good and bad decisions. One of the best decisions we ever made was to establish a training system and infrastructure to support it as well as to continue to reinvest in this system. We currently have approximately 1600 training centers and spend about a billion dollars a year of our own money to continue upgrading, operating, and training the next generations work force. In 2013, that commitment brings unbelievable strength to our value proposition of 21st century labor relations, robust advocacy work for our members, contractors, clients and the communities where we live and work. And our ability to recruit and train the next generation's craft workforce benefits the industries in which we work, our contractors and our members. It also provides numerous opportunities for under-served communities to learn skills and gain footholds in the middle class. Thus, it makes the building trades as relevant today as when the middle class was originally built throughout the 1930's-50's, and that's why I am so optimistic about the future.

Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?  
 Labor, like anything else, should always be adapting and in the Building Trades, much to the ignorance of some in and out of Labor, we have been adapting and building relationships with people of good will from within the construction industry - the buyers of construction services, politician and the communities in which we live

and work. A close examination of our value proposition should make it perfectly clear to anyone that takes the time to see it in action. We are far from perfect, but we are doing excellent work with all of our partners and scores of communities across this country. Each day we strive to do better

in the areas where we are not making the grade. The Building Trades will continue to adapt and bring values to all those we interface with.

**S**ean was born and raised in Philadelphia, PA where he started with IUPAT in 1981. In 2005, he was elected Secretary-Treasurer of the Building Trades. In 2012, Sean was unanimously elected to the office of President. Sean serves on many union construction industry labor-management committees. Sean holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the National Labor College; and is a graduate of the Harvard University Trade Union Program. Sean currently resides in Maryland, and has two lovely daughters, Kerri Ann and Kelsey Marie.

## JAMES MCGOWAN

Current company/position: Uniformed Fire Officers Association - Lieutenants Representative  
 Place of Birth: Astoria, Queens  
 Where you live: Mahopac, N.Y.  
 First Job: Roofer and United Parcel Service  
 What it taught me: The importance of working hard, being responsible and commitment  
 Status: Married  
 Family: Patricia, Caitlyn, James and Chelsea  
 Three things people would be surprised to know about me

- 1: I am an Honorary Member of the FDNY Emerald Society Pipes and Drums.
  - 2: I enjoy reading about history.
  - 3: I started working with the Muscular Dystrophy Association in 2005. With the "\$1 per man per meal week" the F.D.N.Y has raised close to \$200,000.
- Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view?  
 The labor movement is more important today, especially in this economy. Labor represents the working men and women and their interests. There are people all over this country who are trying to diminish or take away hard earned benefits that past and present Union leaders have achieved over the last 100 years. More than ever, working people need a collective voice. Without a collective voice to improve everyday lives, the threat of sweatshop conditions, unlivable wages and 70 hour work weeks may become a part of Americas working future. We need to maintain pride and ownership in the labor movement. We need to unite, protect and improve our members wages, benefits and working conditions. When we stay together, labor will always prevail.

Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?  
 The labor movement has changed with the times, not only actively, but politically as well. If labor is to survive we need to create a more active, political and aggressive labor movement. This past primary day, the U.F.O.A. had over 2,000 active and retired members participate in political action all over N.Y.C. With a more active, political and aggressive labor movement, labor will find itself ahead of change.

**J**im was born in Astoria, Queens to James and Frances McGowan. After graduating Mahopac High School, Jim continued his education at S.U.N.Y. Cortland where he received a Bachelors Degree in Economics. During the summer months, Jim worked as a roofer and at the United Parcel Service at night. The experience at both jobs taught Jim to watch, listen and develop a hands on approach to what organized labor was all about.

Jim joined the N.Y.C. Fire Department in 1986 and was assigned to Engine 43 in the Bronx. After a few years he transferred "across the floor" to ladder 59. Jim was promoted to Lieutenant in 1997 and continued his political action as a proud member of the U.F.O.A. in 2000 he was elected to the U.F.O.A, Executive Board as a Lieutenant Representative. Over the

years he has held numerous titles-Vice President, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary and is now the Chairman of the U.F.O.A. Pension Board.  
 Jim is married to his wife Patricia and has three beautiful children, Caitlyn, James and Chelsea.

## WILLIAM F. McNEELY

Current company/position: NYPD/Detective 1st Grade  
 Place of Birth: Brooklyn, N.Y.  
 Where you live: Staten Island, NY  
 First Job: Restaurant Bus Boy  
 What it taught me: It taught me to develop a better sense of responsibility and an appreciation for good old fashioned physical labor  
 Status: Married  
 Family: Michele (wife), Chelsea (daughter), William III (son), Riley (daughter)  
 Three things people would be surprised to know about me

1. I love to cook. I've been told by family and friends that my culinary talents are fairly strong as well. I also competed on a cooking show on the Food Network.
2. I enjoy long distance running and proudly completed my first NYC Marathon at the age of 44. I compete in many races including half marathons as well.
3. I am a movie enthusiast and enjoy films from all eras and genres. One of my favorite movies of all time is "The Quiet Man" with John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara. I've also done technical advising on a major motion picture and police related television shows i.e. Pride and Glory, NYPD Blue, Blind Justice, and Castle.

Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view?  
 I believe that the labor movement is more relevant than ever before. With current day attacks on public sector pensions, benefits and collective bargaining rights, organized labor has its biggest battles ahead to protect and ensure the gains made for labor over the past 100 years are not lost or significantly diminished.  
 Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?  
 Obviously, labor has to work within the parameters of municipal, state, federal, and private sector budgets and be willing to modify its needs to grapple with the current down economy, but by no means should labor concede to roll back the clock and lose protections that workers have fought, and in some cases died for over the past century.

**W**illiam F. McNeely Jr. was born and raised in Brooklyn, N.Y. and joined the NYPD in 1987. He achieved the rank of Detective while assigned to the Narcotics Division. William was promoted to Detective 2nd Grade in 2001 while assigned to the Manhattan South Homicide Squad. He was again promoted to his current rank of Detective 1st Grade in 2006.

William commenced on his career in labor in 2003 while assigned to the Manhattan South Homicide Squad he was elected as union delegate for the Detectives' Endowment Association of the NYPD, which is the 2nd largest police union in New York State representing 17,000 active and retired Detectives. In 2005 William was elected to the position of Manhattan South Welfare Officer representing approximately 600 Detectives. In 2009 William was elevated to the position of Manhattan South Trustee. As a union trustee William's duties include representing Detectives at disciplinary hearings, and a fiduciary responsibility for the approval of expenditures by the union, which is also a multi-million dollar corporation. William is currently the Union's Chairman of Entertainment and Chairman of the Chief of Detectives committee.

## RAYMOND ALEXANDER MELVILLE

Current company/position: I.B.E.W. Local 3 Senior Assistant Business Manager  
 Place of Birth: Bronx, NY  
 Where you live: Bellerose, NY  
 First Job: Wire Lathers union Local 46  
 What it taught me: Respect for hard work and respect for fellow workers.  
 Status: Married  
 Family: Wife Carol, children Brian, Melissa,

Robert & Joseph. Grandsons: Timothy, Christopher, James Patrick, Granddaughters: Kayla and Brianna  
 Three things people would be surprised to know about me  
 1. Received my BA in Political Science this past June 2013  
 2. Not a day goes by that

don't think about the men and women who served our country in Vietnam and the men and women who continue to do so today and in the future.  
 3. I was an "A" journeyman for approximately 1 year before becoming a representative in Local Union #3 I.B.E.W. which means I don't know much about doing electrical work.  
 Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view?  
 Absolutely. It is true that labor unions have lost membership as a result of the economy and anti-union propaganda by those who seek higher and higher profits, rather than a full wage and benefits for all working men and women. Eventually workers will have enough of this kind of treatment and start to unionize.  
 Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?  
 Yes, labor must embrace immigrants into their ranks and when they do they will find the most loyal members. Educate the people and get more politically active in their communities

**M**r. Melville attended Queen of Peace grammar school, Francis Lewis High School and holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Empire State College SUNY. Mr. Melville enlisted in the United States Marine Corps for four years. He served thirteen months in Vietnam and was awarded the Bronze Star with combat V, Purple Heart and two Presidential Unit Citations serving with "E" Company, 2nd Battalion, 26th Marines from December 19, 1966 to January 1968. He was honorably discharged in April 1969 obtaining the rank of Staff Sergeant (E6). Upon his return from military service, Melville became a member of Local 46 of the Wire Lathers Union. In January 1970 he was then initiated into L. U. #3 I.B.E.W. A second generation member of Local Union #3 IBEW, after completing the apprentice training program, he obtained Journeyman status in 1978 and worked in the industry as a sub-foreman, foreman before becoming Business Representative in November 1980. Mr. Melville was licensed to represent members of Local Union #3 IBEW at the Workers Compensation Board in New York State. In 1987 he became Business Representative for Construction in the borough of Queens. In April 1994 became Assistant Business Manager for construction in New York City and in 2003, Westchester and Fairfield, CT. In 2012 he became Senior Assistant Business Manager. Mr. Melville is currently a Trustee to the J.I.B Legal Service Plan, Educational & Cultural Fund, Annuity Plan, Pension Plan, Finance Committee, Deferred Salary plan, Employment Committee, Dental Plan, Joint Apprentice Committee and Employee Security Fund. He has served on the Chairman and Advisory Committee of the Re-codification of the Law Project of the Workers Compensation Board and as a member of the New York City Electrical Code Advisory Committee. Mr. Melville has also served as Sergeant At Arms at 35th, 36th, 37th & 38th Convention of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Convention. He has received numerous awards from various club organizations. Mr. Melville has resided in Bellerose, Queens for over 41 years. He and his wife Carol are the proud parents of four grown children; Brian, Melissa, Robert and Joseph. They have five grandchildren, 3 grandsons Timothy, Christopher, James Patrick and two granddaughters Kayal and Brianna.

## DORIS MARIE MEYER

Current company/position: Retired NYC Teacher and Part Time WF Consultant  
 Place of Birth: Brooklyn  
 Where you live: NYC  
 First Job: Editorial Assistant at Doubleday Books  
 What it taught me: Receiving letters to authors from children and studying children's literature inspired me to become a teacher. I worked with many remarkable people, including Jackie Kennedy who was a wonderful model of the spirit of solidarity in the workplace, despite the fact that it was not a unionized setting  
 Status: Single  
 Three things people would be surprised to know about me

**Compliments of:  
International Union of Operating Engineers  
Local Union Number 94-94A-94B**

Kuba J. Brown • Business Manager & President

Thomas Costello • Vice President

Edward Burke • Conductor

Thomas M. Hart, Jr. • Recording Secretary

John W. Kramer • Treasurer

John Redden • Guard

Robert Zimmer • Financial Secretary

**Trustees**

John Cancel

Kelly A. Drummond

Gerald Streicher

**Auditors**

Anthony Fasulor

Michael Gadaleta

Raymond Macco

**Business Representatives**

Kuba J. Brown

Thomas Costello

Kelly A. Drummond

Michael Gadaleta

Thomas M. Hart, Jr.

John W. Kramer

Raymond Macco

John Redden



# IRISH LABOR 100

1. Because my name is not Irish, others may be surprised to know that my maternal great grandparents were born in Ireland - in County Kilkenny and Queens County, now names Laois.  
2. I haven't talked about the subject, so it may be a surprise to some that I've written a book about Irish

culture for children to be published by Marble House Press in 2014.

3. Even I'm surprised that I miss telling stories and using puppets as much as I do. I loved that part of my work as a teacher.

Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view?

I believe the labor movement is as relevant today as it was when Benjamin Franklin formed the Leather Apron Club to organize skilled workers and visionary thinkers. Labor is integral to the foundation of democracy and unions continue to uphold all that affirms social justice and their existence continues to be necessary as protectors of worker's rights and benefits, particularly earned pensions.

Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?

My father was a member of the Federation of Technical Engineers, Architects and Draftsmen, AFL-CIO and prior to that, the National Organization of Masters, Mates & Pilots, AFL, Local 88. Neither of these groups exist today as they did since advances in technology have changed the nature and need for such labor organizations. The lessons of labor history, particularly regarding women and minority groups, provide rich examples of labor's ongoing response to multi-level societal changes.

**D**oris grew up with a deep appreciation of all things Irish and clearly remembers feeling pride in her Irish ancestry when her first grade teacher, Sister Walter Philipp, showed the class how to dance a jig. Doris recently retired after teaching for 25 years in P.S. 158 on the Upper East Side. For 15 of those years, she maintained links with the teacher/principal of Coolbock National School in Riverstown, Sligo, one of the last remaining two room school houses in Ireland and students exchanged letters and shared projects. One of the many highlights of her career was when her students performed for the former president of Ireland, Mary McAleese, during her visit to New York. As a teacher, Doris was actively involved with the United Federation of Teachers as a Chapter Leader, Delegate Assembly Rep., Consultation and School Safety Committee member and recipient of several UFT mini grants. She is the president of the American Irish Teachers Association, Inc., chair of the UFT Irish Studies Committee, and past chair and trustee of the Irish American Heritage & Culture Committee, DOE. She loves Irish traditional music and poetry and has visited Ireland numerous times. She enjoys swimming in the Long Island Sound well into October and spending time with friends and family - from the oldest, mother Margaret, to the youngest, nephew baby Liam.

## RICHARD E. MOLAN

Current company/position: Molan Milner & Krupski PLLC/Senior Partner

Place of Birth: Manchester, NH

Where you live: Manchester, NH

First Job: Custodian at parish hall at 14

What it taught me: A strong work ethic and dependability reaps its own rewards

Status: Married  
Family: Wife Patricia Quinn Molan; daughters: Shauna and Maura

Three things people would be surprised to know about me

1. I worked on a garbage truck summers during college.
2. I am a model railroad addict.
3. I have seen every Gene Autry movie ever made.

Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view?

The labor movement is still relevant as it is the only organized voice for middle income Americans. Despite its declining numbers it continues to function as the economic and political watchdog for the best interests of workers. As the robber barons reemerge, organized labor will prove to be the final line of defense, the same role it played more than 100 years ago.

Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing

times, and what form should any such adapting take?

As with everything, labor must adapt to changing technology and economic realities. Most importantly, it must adapt its how to deliver its message and relate to younger workers.

**R**ichard Molan received his degrees from the University of New Hampshire and the UNH School of Law. He began his career in labor in 1970 as a staff member for the State Employees Association of NH, SEIU Local 1984. He has been associated with the Professional Fire Fighters of NH since 1979 and still serves as their General Counsel. Molan was appointed by the legislature to a committee charged with drafting the state's collective bargaining law in 1975. He served as a member of the State Labor Relations Board for 23 years. In 1985, he co-founded his law firm which in addition to fire fighters, state and municipal employees, represents higher education, teacher and police unions. He is a trustee for the Manchester (NH) Employees Retirement System and a Fellow of the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers. Attorney Molan is listed in Best Lawyers in America and Super lawyers of New England.

## TIMOTHY MORRIS

Current company/position: Suffolk County Police Superior Officers Association/President

Place of Birth: Bay Shore, NY

Where you live: Sayville, NY

First Job: Commercial Baymen

What it taught me: Taught me what it was like to work hard and to depend on myself.

Status: Married

Family: Spouse Anne; children Elizabeth, Carolyn, Timothy and Brian

Three things people would be surprised to know about me

1. That I was a Commercial Baymen prior to becoming a Police Officer.
2. That my wife, Anne, and I opened and supervised the second Group Home for mentally disabled in Suffolk County in 1975.

Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view?:

Absolutely. In so far as unions for Police Officers one only has to look at states that do not permit their police Officers to organize and bargain collectively. In those states police officers receive comparatively low pay and benefits. In those states police officers have no protections against firing and are still asked to go out everyday and put their lives and their family's future on the line. Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?

Absolutely. Labor must continue to educate itself and be willing to adapt to changing conditions and economic realities.

**T**im Morris, son of Virginia and Timothy Morris, grew up in Babylon, NY where he attended St. Joseph's School. He graduated from St. John the Baptist High School in West Islip and attended Villanova University, the State University of New York Farmingdale and St. Joseph's College in New York. Tim has an Associates in Applied science in Criminal Justice and a Bachelor of Arts in Human Relations. Married for 39 years to Anne Parrott, a teacher, they have four children, Elizabeth and her husband Jason Wunsch, Carolyn and her fiancé Jack Leonard, Tim and his wife Allison and son Brian. Tim joined the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department in 1975. The same year, Tim and his wife Anne, serving as house parents opened the second group home in Suffolk County Developmentally Disabled Adults for the Suffolk County AHRC. In 1980 Tim joined the Suffolk County Police Department and was assigned to the First Precinct in Babylon. Promoted to Sergeant in 1988 he was transferred to the Third Precinct in Bay Shore. An active participant in both union and fraternal organizations, Tim served as secretary to the Suffolk County Deputy Sheriff's

Benevolent Association and then as First President and has served on committees including Negotiations and Labor. Tim was elected president of Suffolk County Police Superiors Association in 2012. A member of the Emerald Society and AOH, his Irish roots are in

Antrim, Tyrone and Cork.

## MAURA MULLIGAN

Current company/position: Writer/Dance teacher  
Place of Birth: Aghamore, Co. Mayo  
Where you live: West New

York, NJ

First Job: Housekeeper

What it taught me: It taught me not to be a housekeeper.

Status: Single

Three things people would be surprised to know about me

1. I came to America on a ship, but I can't swim.
2. Anyone who hasn't read my memoir, "Call of the Lark," may be surprised to know that I left home to work as a maid at age fourteen.
3. When I was a nun in the seventies, I got myself to school on a yellow moped. My third graders loved it.

Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view?

The Labor Movement is still very viable in today's market place. Unions made the middle class in American society and worked to get safety regulations in the work place. There are still many areas where the workers are underpaid, receive no health care, need safety rules to be enforced, etc, so the need for unions is still here. Without unions, employers can ignore workers' rights. Without a teachers' union, wages, benefits, job security and class size suffer.

Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?

I'm a believer in unions, though, unfortunately, like everything else, they are subject to corruption. Dishonest leaders need to be driven from our midst. To adapt to changing times, unions need to get more feedback from those in the trenches. They need to be ever more vigilant of right wing moneybags, which have an interest in making big profits and cutting workers' pay and benefits. Readers can learn about their influence by Googling Scott Walker, Koch-backed governor, who, according to reports, has used many underhanded means to bust the unions in Wisconsin, a state that was once a pioneer in protecting workers' rights.

**A** member of the United Federation of Teachers since 1987, Maura Mulligan is the author of "Call of the Lark," a memoir, published by Greenpoint Press in 2012. A recipient of writers' residencies at Heinrich Böll Cottage, Achill Island, and Tyrone Guthrie Center, Monaghan, her voice is in demand at centers for Irish Studies. A retired teacher of English to speakers of other languages in New York public schools, she served as Field Supervisor for Hunter College of the City University of New York, where she earned a Masters of Arts degree in 1993. Since the eighties, Maura has taught Irish language in the New York area. A certified céilí dance instructor, she currently teaches a dance class in Manhattan and is scheduled to conduct a class for retirees at the UFT.

## JOHN J. MURPHY

Current company/position: UA Plumbers Local No. 1 Business Manager

Place of Birth: Bronx, NY

Where you live: Thornwood, NY

First Job: I was a pot washer in the kitchen of the Red Coach restaurant in Yonkers at 15 years old.

What it taught me:

My Father always taught me that no matter what job you have, be the best. I was, by far, the low man on the totem pole but I didn't know it and didn't care. I'll never forget the satisfaction of my earning my first paycheck.

Status: Married. Wife; Jeannine and two sons, Ryan and Christian

1: I'm an avid reader.

2: I still do the plumbing in my own house.

Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view?

George Meany, a union plumber from the Bronx who went on to become the first President of the AFL-CIO used to say, "The basic goal of Organized Labor is to better the quality of life for all who work for wages and to

seek dignity, justice and decency for all Americans." That statement has never been more relevant than it is today. When corporations find ways to export jobs and increase shareholder profits, their CEOs are spotlighted on the cover of Forbes or Fortune as champions of their

industry. Just drive through upstate New York where manufacturing was once abundant and see the shadows of the majestic Main Streets that now stand as a symbol of a by-gone era at the expense of working class Americans. The recent emergence of the NYC Department of Buildings allowing unlicensed trades to assemble plumbing, mechanical and electrical systems in modular construction units in NYC is yet another example of finding a way to outsource, good, working class jobs.

Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?: The world is changing and we need to continue to evolve with the times. Remember the adage, "Those that don't like change will like irrelevance even less."

**J**ohn was initiated into membership of Plumbers Local Union No. 1 in January of 1984. He is a fourth generation union plumber in the city of New York. After serving his apprenticeship, John worked in various capacities in the Plumbing Industry in both the private and public sector. In 1996 at the age of 32, John was elected as Recording Secretary and rose through the ranks of the largest plumbers union in the United States and Canada being elected twice as a Business Agent, three times as Financial Secretary-Treasurer before his election as Business Manager. On the home front, John gets support from his wife Jeannine, a schoolteacher, to whom he has been married to for 26 years. They have two children, Ryan, a recent graduate of Boston College, and Christian, who is attending Cortland.

## PETE MURPHY

Current company/position: President/Business Agent -Teamsters Local 522

Place of Birth: Sunset Park, Brooklyn

Where you live: Pearl River, NY

First Job: Paper Route with brothers 7-12

What it taught me: The enjoyment and camaraderie of being a worker amongst workers, and, more prominently, the propensity of owner/management exploitation

Status: Married

Family: Daughters Madeline, 9 and Abigail, 6; son John, 3

Three things people would be surprised to know about me

1. Maintained a near perfect GPA at Brooklyn College
2. Ran two sub 3 hour marathons at 24: 2:58:07 - NYC, 2:58:33 - Boston
3. Traveled cross country at 19.

Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view?

Without the Labor Movement, there would certainly be an unabated race to relegate workers to subsistence wage levels and working conditions. If we could imagine an extreme (for many a reality), a labor market in which no workers are represented through collective bargaining agents; where labor didn't exist to support legislative representatives and initiatives sympathetic to fairness for workers and their essential causes, then employers and legislators would be testing the bounds by which workers would remain tolerant of working and living conditions for themselves and their families. Such a union-less society, would be the ferment from which labor leaders are spawned, necessitating the creation, or recreation, of the Labor Movement. Worker struggles can be resolved successfully only through the unified representation of their common interests, in any economy and under any economic conditions .A worker acting alone on behalf of his individual interests serves merely to disappoint himself and defeat any chance of fairness for himself and his fellow workers in the workplace. and, consequently, in society on the whole. Far from the question of relevance, the Labor Movement is inevitable.

Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?

Organizing and educating workers for recognition and representation in the workplace is the

**Paschal & Teresa McGuinness**

**salutes**

**The Irish Echo**

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**Especially our friend &  
Outstanding Labor Leader**

**Noel Casey**

# IRISH LABOR 100

intransigent dynamic that builds unions. However, workers collectively must first possess the view that wages and working conditions are truly unacceptable. Workers must then realize the inherent value of a unionized workplace - the ability to achieve reasonable goals through

unified representation. The dynamic thereby is set in motion. The building block tenets of the closed shop and industry saturation must follow successful representation in order for the movement to thrive. Labor can use its structure and resources creatively, but workers themselves must come to the realization that unions serve as the means for achieving guarantees and fairness in the workplace. Adaptation will occur naturally. Motivated Workers, understanding the intrinsic value of unionization, who assemble in vast majorities with committed leaders, is the driving force behind a successful Labor Movement in any given place, at any given time.

Born and raised the 5th child amongst 6 brothers and 4 sisters I was taught by my father, a public school English teacher, to be truly appreciative for my health and the basic necessities, but, he also instilled in me the importance of the art, literature, and education in general. I was heavily influenced by my Uncle, Harry Hennessey, President of an ILA Local and head of the ILA's United Marine Division. I got involved with the Teamsters through another prominent Labor mentor, Dan Kane Sr., President of Teamsters Local 111 and International VP. I have had the honor and privilege to work in many capacities with him over the years, along with his sons, James, principal officer of Local 522, Dan Jr., President, Teamsters Local 202, and Walter, founding partner of Labor Law firm, Cary Kane. While working, I furthered my education through at Brooklyn College. I have the distinguished honor to continue in service of the members of Teamsters Local 522 as their President, business agent, and Fund Trustee.

## MICHAEL O'MEARA

Current company/position: President, MTA Police Benevolent Association

Place of Birth: Brooklyn, NY

Where you live: Pearl River, NY

First Job: Dishwasher

What it taught me: That I didn't want to be a dishwasher for very long

Status: Married

Family: Wife: Ann, Children: Marykate, Michael, Meghan

Three things people would be surprised to know about me

1: I never graduated from college.

2: I was once a pretty good runner.

3: I played the bagpipes for a few years when I was younger.

Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view?

It's not only relevant, it's necessary to help the next generation join the middle class through good paying jobs with benefits, and especially pensions.

Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?

Labor has to re-affirm it's position as a gateway to the middle class, and join together to eradicate the idea that unions are bad for this country and it's economy.

Michael was born in Brooklyn to Henry O'Meara and Bridget (Della) O'Meara (nee Sheridan). Henry is a native of Flagmount, County Clare, and Della from Cullane, County Mayo. He was raised with his sisters Mary and Patricia in the great borough of Brooklyn, NY. Michael was hired by the LIRR Police Department in 1990 (became MTA Police Dept. in 1998), and a few years later was married to his lovely wife Ann. They have three children, Marykate, Michael and Meghan. He has held almost every position in the MTA PBA, and became the President on January 1, 2013.

## ALICE O'NEIL

Current company/position: United Federation of Teachers Manhattan High School District Representative

Place of Birth: Fresno, California

Where you live: Glen Rock, New Jersey

First Job: Housekeeper

What it taught me: To have a work ethic and to be

thorough

Status: Married

Family: Husband Robert McCue

Three things people would be surprised to know about me

1. Hoop Shoot Champion of Fresno, California in the seventh grade.

2. I love to bake cakes from scratch.

3. At UC Davis I was in an Irish Dance troupe.

Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view?

The labor movement is relevant as our next generation of workers will appreciate the healthcare and pension benefits secured by those who challenged the city government's scapegoating of unions for the fiscal crisis.

Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?

Labor should include all forms of social media to galvanize our young workers.

Alice O'Neil is in her 17th year as a New York City public high school teacher at Food and Finance High School in Hell's Kitchen, previously Park West High School. This is her third year as the UFT Manhattan High School District Representative where she works with 43 chapter leaders and their members in the fight against oversize classes and the co-location of non-union charters. Charlie O'Neil, her father, was his local USPS retiree President and her mother, Kathleen O'Neil, fought for better working conditions for Licensed Vocational Nurses. Robert McCue, her husband, is a New York City public high school teacher, chapter leader, and partner in protecting the voice of our hardworking laborers in the classroom.

## MICHAEL O'REILLY

Current company/position: Resident Manager

Place of Birth: Cavan, Ireland

Where you live: Upper East Side, Manhattan

First Job: Maintenance Porter in Residential Building

What it taught me: Customer service skills and the fundamentals of the mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems in a residential building

Status: Married

Family: Wife Rosie, Cailean (deceased) Oisín, Slaine

Three things people would be surprised to know about me

1. Enjoy golfing. Even though I am a beginner, I think I have a great future.

2.: I am interested in current affairs and I like to read Irish history.

3.: I am a GAA enthusiast.

Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view?

Yes I do. To keep New York City at the cutting edge, skilled union labor is always required to make this happen.

Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?

It has to adapt. It needs to become more educated and safety conscious.

Vice President Emerald Guild Society

Michael O'Reilly first came to the USA in 1983 where he began his career in the residential real estate industry. Over the last 30 years Michael's career has gone from strength to strength. He has worked in residential industry and taken the opportunity to give back to the Irish and Irish-American community, to help develop careers in the New York Real Estate arena. Michael is an active member of the Local 32BJ. He is currently the Vice President of the Emerald Guild Society which is an organization of Irish-American building manager professionals. Michael has taken leadership role in the CERT program. This program has trained and certified a large group of first responders in the residential real estate industry over the last few years. Michael and this group were very instrumental post-Superstorm Sandy. He was also a founding member of Shannon Gaels Gaelic club in Queens.

## JOHN O'RIORDAN

Current

company/position:

California Democratic

Party - Vice Chair, Irish

Caucus

Place of Birth: Doneraile,

Co. Cork

Where you live: San

Francisco

First Job: High School

Teacher - St. Gallen

Switzerland

What it taught me: I

learned that it is better to

teach kids how to think

rather than what to think.

Status: Married

Family: My wife's name is

Paola and my daughters are Sofia (3 Years) and Eliana (1 year)

Three things people would be surprised to know about me

1: Despite being steeped in politics, I voted for the first time at the age of 42.

2: While working as a waiter in Washington D.C., I waited on two presidential candidates, Joe Biden and Pat Buchanan...though not at the same time!

3: While I speak publicly very often, I am actually a very shy person.

Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view?:

Absolutely! We owe the eight-hour day, the Social Security system, and minimum wage laws to the labor movement. Further, the labor movement is the driving force behind safety and skill training in the workplace, saving U.S. companies millions of dollars.

Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?

Labor needs to continue to be a leader in Skills training and also help to facilitate career transition, particularly from industries that are in decline.

John O'Riordan is a leader of the Irish Community in San Francisco and a powerful advocate of the Labor movement in San Francisco and throughout the State of California. John recently lobbied successfully for direct flights from San Francisco to Ireland, securing long term union employment at San Francisco International Airport.

He has recently formed a committee to establish a permanent memorial in San Francisco to the victims and survivors of the Irish Famine. Many survivors of the Famine, aware of the hardships and challenges facing the poor and oppressed, subsequently became leaders of the Labor movement in California.

## BRENDA O'SHEA

Current company/position: Somers Faculty Association - President; Somers High School - Social Studies Teacher

Place of Birth: Dublin, Ireland

Where you live: White Plains, NY

First Job: St. Barnabas Elementary School - 8th

Grade Teacher

What it taught me: St. Barnabas was a great way to learn to teach, but I knew that I wanted to teach the nuances and forgotten stories of history.

Status: Single

Three things people would be surprised to know about me

1. I love to travel and went to Argentina this summer.

2. I am a founding member of HOPE, a charity focused on projects in the Developing World.

3. I make a mean chili!

Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view?

The labor movement is essential in today's economy. The only way that the economy can prosper is when all workers are paid a fair, living wage. In an era of increasing corporate power (especially in education), unions speak for the voices that corporate entities do not want to hear - students, parents and educators.

Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?

Traditional methods of organizing are no longer as effective as they used to be. Today's successful labor unions are creating coalitions with other interested groups. In education, this means closer

connections with parent groups, as frequently we have the same goals. In addition, labor unions are moving from a service model to an organizing model. This allows members to be consistently involved. Instead of reacting to a problem or crisis, the unit

has prevented it from occurring. NYSUT has worked with member units, like the Somers Faculty Association, on moving to the organizing model.

Brenda O'Shea was born in Dublin and moved to New York with her family when she

was seven. In the O'Shea family, discussions of history and politics were typical dinner conversations, so it was not surprising that Brenda developed a passion for history. Upon completion of her degree at Fordham University, Brenda began teaching 8th grade at St. Barnabas Elementary School in the Bronx while completing a Masters of Science in Teaching at Iona College. She was then hired as a Social Studies teacher in Somers High School in Northern Westchester. She soon became involved in the Somers Faculty Association on various committees and then chairing the Negotiations Committee. Brenda now serves as President of the Somers Faculty Association, which is an affiliate of NYSUT, the state's largest union.

## THOMAS H. O'SHEA

Company/position: Founder & 1st President Transport Workers Union

Place of Birth: Queenstown (Cobh), Cork

Where lived: Bronx, NY after Ireland

First Job: Irish Volunteers - 1st Cork Brigade

What it taught: Fighting for just cause is worth all the sacrifice.

Status: Was married

Family: Hilda O'Shea (nee Hughes) wife, Harry,

Terence, Thomas, John & Mary children, all

deceased. Kathleen daughter, living

Three things people would be surprised to know

about Thomas

1. The O'Shea home in Cobh is still in the family.

2. Three oldest sons all served in various branches of the U.S. military.

3. Imprisoned 5 times during the War of Independence and the Civil War and led hunger strikes during 2 of the incarcerations.

Did he think that the labor movement was still relevant in today's economy, and what would be his main arguments affirming this view?

The labor movement is completely relevant for modern society. We live in a world where corporate profit margins and shareholders returns are prioritized above the rights of workers.

Did he think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?

Labor has to adapt to changing times as the workforce deals with economic globalization. Unions have to protect working conditions but collectively bargain in good faith. A fair balance of rights and benefits while not bankrupting municipalities.

Thomas H. O'Shea, born Cobh, Cork in 1898, was an Irish Revolutionary and co-founder of the Transport Workers Union in NYC. During the Irish Revolution and Civil War, he conducted raids on enemy forces becoming a munitions expert and company officer in the process. Immigrating to America in 1928 he joined Clan-na-Gael and gained assistance from the Communist Party USA in organizing the TWU. Appointed 1st president of the union, O'Shea later broke with the CP and fell out with the TWU leading to his testimony in 1940 during the House Committee on Un-American Activities.

## KEITH OLSON

Current company/position: Yonkers PBA President

Place of Birth: Yonkers, NY

Where you live: Yonkers, NY

First Job: Laborer with a private contractor

What it taught me: It taught me what hard work really is.

Status: Married

Family: Wife Liza Olson, children Tyler, 21, Sean-18

Three things people would be surprised to know about me

1. I love to read.

2. I became a police officer at age 20.

3. My favorite TV show of all time is HBO's "The Wire."

Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view?

Of course it is. Although there has been a decline in the labor movement over the last 30 years or so, we can point to the overturning of Ohio's SB5



# IRISH LABOR 100



in recent years as to labor's relevance. Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?: Labor absolutely has to adapt and frankly, we haven't done a great job of it. One thing we need to do is strengthen the bond

between public sector and private sector labor unions.

Keith Olson is a detective with the City of Yonkers Police Department and is currently the President of the Yonkers PBA. Keith was elected President of the Yonkers PBA in 2010 and was re-elected by an overwhelming margin in 2012. Keith has been married to his wife Liza for almost 22 years and is an incredibly proud father to his sons Tyler, 21, a writer and student at Purchase College, and Sean, 18, an artist and student at Iona College. Keith is most proud of his and the Yonkers PBA's charitable efforts, raising almost one million dollars in recent years for charities such as St. Baldricks's, Wounded Warriors, Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center, the Yonkers PAL, Heartsong and much more.

## PATRICK REYNOLDS

Current company/position: FDNY Captain  
Place of Birth: New York, NY  
Where you live: East Northport, NY  
First Job: Delivering dry cleaning  
What it taught me: As a young person, earning your own wages quickly taught you the value of money  
Status: Married  
Family: Bridget (spouse) Children: Aileen, 21 and Brian, 17  
Three things people would be surprised to know about me  
1. Enjoys kayaking.  
2. Can make delicious chicken wings.  
3. Earned a 100,000 vertical feet skied award pin at Jackson Hole Ski resort in Wyoming.  
Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view?  
In the ever evolving economy unions will be relevant. The conditions that people work in, regardless of the industry they are in, require an advocate that speaks for the employees.  
Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?:  
All organizations must adapt to survive and the adage of "we never did it that way before" will quickly become an epitaph on a headstone. The core mission of a union must be its priority.

Pat was born and raised in the Yorkville section of Manhattan along with his 3 brothers. His parents, Patrick and Johanna, are from Westmeath and Kerry respectively. Pat graduated from Cardinal Hayes High School and Fordham University. He entered the FDNY in 1984 and was a Captains Representative for the UFOA for six years. In that period he served as Vice President and Recording Secretary. Pat recently returned to the uniformed ranks after two terms on the executive board. He has been married to his wife, Bridget, for 26 years and they have 2 children currently attending Fordham University. His wife's parents are from Mayo and Cavan.

Set head: James Ryan  
Use James Ryan jpg

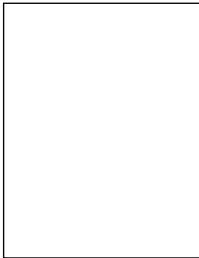
Current company/position: President - L.I.U.N.A Local 147

Where you live: Queens, NY

Status: Married

Family: Wife Mary, children John, Kelly, Gregory and Heather. Grandchildren Jack, Lilly, Julie, Matthew, Kevin and Caroline  
Three things people would be surprised to know about me

1. I love listening to Led Zeppelin and The Beatles.



2. I enjoy watching NY Giants football.  
3. My wife Mary and I will celebrate 40 wonderful years of marriage in April.  
Biography

Jim Ryan became a member of local 147 L.I.U.N.A in 1971 at

the age of 18 following the footsteps of his father Joe "Red" Ryan and grandfather Nick. He worked in the tunnels as a miner for 30 years before he became President in 2000. Jim will be celebrating 40 years of marriage in April with his wife Mary. They reside in Queens. They have 4 children,

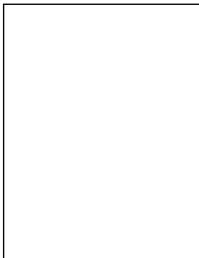
John, Kelly, Gregory and Heather and have 6 wild and crazy grand kids Jack, Lilly, Julie, Matthew, Kevin, and Caroline. In Jim's spare time he enjoys reading, listening to Led Zeppelin and The Beatles, watching the NY Giants win and golfing with his buddies. Jim

remains true to the brotherhood of the union which he hopes to pass on to his sons who are sandhogs, members and future members.

## JOSEPH SELETSKI

Current company/position: United Federation of Teachers - Associate Benefits Administrator  
Place of Birth: Brooklyn, New York  
Where you live: East Meadow, New York  
First Job: United Federation of Teachers  
What it taught me: Working for the UFT has taught me the value and understanding of organizing labor and unionism. The UFT actively advocates for its members to earn competitive salaries, safe and healthy working conditions, comprehensive health and welfare benefits, etc. Through these efforts, the UFT is able to commit itself to strengthening our communities and the lives of its members. Working together we can make a difference!  
Status: Single  
Three things people would be surprised to know about me  
1. I love teaching Irish Step Dancing.  
2. Spending my free time gardening and doing yard work.  
3. Spending time with my nieces and nephews and taking them on vacation with me to my lake house in Pennsylvania.  
Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view?  
The labor movement is extremely relevant in today's economy. Protecting and maintaining employee rights in the workplace is very important especially when it comes to retirement benefits. Retirement can sometimes be an extremely difficult step for members of the work force to take. Finding ways to keep defined benefit plans alive is essential to the future of the labor industry. Providing guaranteed income to retirees not only provides a sense of comfort to maintain set standards of living but also encourages spending which is a key factor in keeping a strong and growing economy.  
Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?  
Labor should always adapt to changing times and continuously aim for a positive outcome. As society progresses with newer technology, it is important to implement technology into the workforce without a negative impact or restriction such as diminishing employment opportunities. The workforce must be able to use technology as a method to paving the way for more employment opportunities and growth therefore permitting the economy to thrive globally.

Joseph Seletski was born in Brooklyn, New York to an Irish-American mother and Polish father. His Irish ancestral roots can be traced back to Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo. Joseph currently works for the United Federation of Teachers and has been since 2000. His father was a member of the Paper Handlers Union, his mother a member of DC37 and CSEA; his brother is an active member of the PBA and his sister is an active member of the UFT. Joseph is an accomplished World Champion Irish Step Dancer and is a certified teacher and adjudicator with An Coimisiun Le Rinci Gaelacha. He attended Queens College and



earned a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology. He currently resides in Long Island, New York with his family.  
Set head: Richard Sheehan  
Use Richard Sheehan jpg  
Current company/position: President  
Where you live: North Massapequa, NY  
First Job: Newspaper Delivery  
What it taught me: To be on time and to hate rainy days and Sundays  
Status: Married  
Family: Stephanie Sheehan (spouse) PAPP Rick Sheehan (son) NYPD Douglas Sheehan (son)  
Three things people would be surprised to know about me  
1. I go to Mass every Saturday.  
2. Big into volunteer work such and Breast Cancer, Suicide Awareness and the Heart Foundation.  
3. I managed Little League NYS Champions Massapequa international and I was also a board member of the league.  
Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view?  
Yes I do. Employers and right wing Republicans have made the unions to be the bad guys of this economy which we all know is not true. Employers are still using the economy as a crutch yet statistics show that businesses are doing better than ever.  
Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?  
Of course labor has to adapt. With such a large population out of work new job classifications need to be made to enhance the blue collar workers. People need to understand that the unions are not the bad guys that we are here to help.  
Biography  
I was born in 1956 to a proud Irish family, the Sheehans and the Masons. My Dad was an only child brought up Irish Catholic in Brooklyn. My loving mother was the oldest of nine children. My grandfather was a NYC fireman. He raised his family through tough times and attended night school to become an attorney. I have 63 first cousins. I married my beautiful wife in 1976. At the time, my oldest son was born he had 9 grandmothers, 3 great- great grandmothers and you can do the math from there. Unfortunately and very sadly my son Rick passed away in 2001. My other son Douglas who is also my confidant and friend through tough times is a NYC police officer. I am very proud. My son Douglas married Heather five years ago she is a beautiful German-Italian girl from Port Chester NY. Her great-grandfather was one of the lead sculptors of Mount Rushmore. My wife Stephanie (Coyle) Sheehan has 4 siblings. She has been the strength and backbone of this family for 37 years. I myself have 3 brothers known as the Irish triplets, Michael, William and Steven. I am the twin brother of William. I am proud to say my son Douglas was also born on my birthday. I joined the Teamsters in 1976 and have been a proud Teamster ever since. I was a Shop Steward for many years and became a Trustee of Local 802. I have worked my way up over the years to become a proud principle officer of Local 802.



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Set head: Richard Sheehan  
Use Richard Sheehan jpg

Current company/position: President

Where you live: North Massapequa, NY

First Job: Newspaper Delivery

What it taught me: To be on time and to hate rainy days and Sundays

Status: Married

Family: Stephanie Sheehan (spouse) PAPP Rick Sheehan (son) NYPD Douglas Sheehan (son)

Three things people would be surprised to know about me

1. I go to Mass every Saturday.

2. Big into volunteer work such and Breast Cancer, Suicide Awareness and the Heart Foundation.

3. I managed Little League NYS Champions Massapequa international and I was also a board member of the league.

Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view?

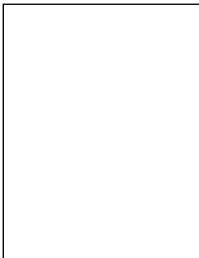
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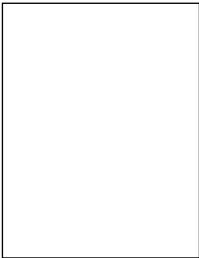
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## JAMES SLEVIN

Current company/position: Uniformed Firefighters Association IAFF Local 94/Vice President



Place of Birth: Bronx, NY  
Where you live: Long Island City, NY  
First Job: Hospital Unit Clerk - Member of Local 144 (Now part of 1199)  
What it taught me: It was a great job but it made me realize I wanted a more challenging career.  
Status: Married  
Family: Wife, Corinne

Slevin, son Colin James Slevin

Three things people would be surprised to know about me

1. Attended Medical School in St. Petersburg Russia in 1994.

2. Appeared as an extra in the Metropolitan Opera's "Aida" with Placido Domingo. Fortunately it was a non-singing role.

3. I have 6 sisters and I am the youngest. Some people ask me how I survived but I wouldn't have wanted it any other way.

Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view?

I believe the labor movement is still relevant today but has many challenges. The US economy has been evolving from a "manufacturing" economy to a "service" economy. Union membership has shifted and has been adapting. There are unions that have been able to grow their memberships as they have adapted to this type of economy. Unions are essential to the growth of the middle class, but only those that adapt will remain relevant. Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?

Absolutely. As Our country faces tremendous challenges economically so does Labor. Labor needs to work with politicians from all parties to overcome those challenges. The best way to promote good paying jobs is by supporting policies that allow our economy to grow. As jobs are created I believe many of them will become union jobs. Healthcare, pensions and social security will see changes in the future and in order to ensure those benefits remain in place we will have to work with lawmakers and employers to come to a mutually agreed upon resolution.

Jim Slevin was born in 1972 to James and Mary Slevin. He has six older sisters. His mom is retired from St. Joseph School for the Deaf and his father is retired from the FDNY and was the elected Chief's Representative on the UFOA Executive Board. Jim's grandparents hail from Kerry, Leitrim and Down. His Grandfather, John Slevin, was the proprietor of The Shannon View in East Durham, NY and Bronx, NY. He attended Fordham Prep then Fairfield University. In 1995 he became a NYC Firefighter and was assigned to Ladder Company 7. In 2000 he received his JD from CUNY School of Law. In June of 2002 he became the youngest person ever elected to the Uniformed Firefighters Association and is now in his fourth term. He is actively involved in lobbying for Firefighters and their families. He is also a trustee of the NYC Fire Department Pension Fund which has almost \$10B. in assets. He has served on numerous educational panels on topics related to pension funds. He was previously named to The Irish Echo's "40 under 40," The Capitol's "40 under 40" and the "Irish Legal 100."

## JOHN P. TOLMAN

Current company/position: Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers & Trainmen/Vice President & National Legislative Representative  
Place of Birth: Brighton, MA  
Where you live: Plymouth, MA  
First Job: My first job was as a golf caddy when I was 12 years old, and I also ran a paper route.  
What it taught me: My first job taught me that golf is a very humbling game.  
Status: Married  
Family: Christine Tolman, Wife; Caroline, Jeff, Johanna, Children  
Three things people would be surprised to know about me

1. I backpacked through Europe when I was twenty years old.

2. I ran and finished the Boston Marathon in just over three hours as well as several other road races.

3. I am a chocoholic. I love Hershey's chocolates.  
Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view?  
I positively believe this. The labor movement was founded on opportunities and the labor class

Connecticut Education  
Association is proud  
to honor our esteemed  
colleague

**Conor Casey**

as one of the 100 leading  
Irish-Americans in  
today's labor movement.

Congratulations, Conor,  
on this distinction!

- Your friends at CEA -



**CONGRATULATIONS**

**WILLIAM**

**on being selected to the  
2013 Irish Labor 100**



Love,  
Mom, Mary Kay & John Van Gorp,  
Michael & Luz, Matthew & Kate  
and your nieces and nephews.

*Best Wishes to the Top 100,  
Especially to*

*Doris Marie Meyer*

*with love from the  
Meyer,  
Nolan,  
O'Neill  
and  
Wallace families.*

# IRISH LABOR 100



which is the main consumer in the economy. Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?

Labor was founded on uplifting the social welfare of all people and I believe the fundamentals have to go back to its roots. Some

leaderships are caught up in titles for themselves and not the whole membership that they represent.

Since 2006, John Tolman has served as Vice President & National Legislative Representative of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers & Trainmen. From both a union and a railroad family, John has been active in advocating for labor rights, legislative and safety issues, and electing the right candidates in order to further enhance the labor movement. In addition to John's union work, he has been active in politics on the federal, state and local level, and served as an Alderman in Melrose, MA, in addition to being the Democratic City Chairman. He also served in community development and with several other non-profit organizations. John and his wife, Christine, have three children, Caroline, Jeff and Johanna. The family lives in Plymouth, MA.

## STEVEN TOLMAN

Current company/position: President, Massachusetts AFL-CIO

Place of Birth: Brighton, MA

Where you live: Brighton, MA

First Job: Star Market

What it taught me: My first job, mopping floors and cleaning the aisles in the Star Market grocery store, taught me about being thorough and paying attention to detail. My managers insisted on a spotless appearance for their customers and it was my responsibility to ensure that the store was up to their strict standards. That experience also taught me that every single job is important to the success of an organization, and no matter what your role is, you should take pride in your work and treat it with the utmost seriousness.

Status: Married

Family: Wife Susan, daughters Victoria and Siobhan, and son Steven, Jr.

Three things people would be surprised to know about me

1. I took piano lessons after high school and still enjoy playing. I've been known to clear rooms pretty quickly when I start to play.
2. I love animals, especially dogs.
3. I am a true believer and a strong and committed advocate for a united Ireland.

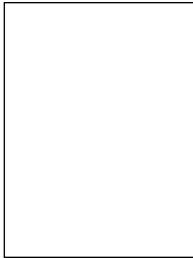
Do you think that the labor movement is still relevant in today's economy, and what would be your main arguments affirming this view?

The Labor Movement is absolutely still relevant and it is needed perhaps more than ever. Just a few short decades ago nearly a third of Americans had a union which guaranteed them good wages and affordable healthcare. As union density has shrunk, so has the idea of economic security for so many Americans. As outsourcing and off-shoring continue to cause a slow bleed of good union jobs, workers in new industries are beginning to realize that the only way to achieve the family-sustaining wages of traditional industries is to unionize. Additionally, as working people come under increasing attack from the extreme right wing, it is only the Labor Movement that has the ability to fight back against the right wing corporate agenda.

Do you think that labor has to adapt to changing times, and what form should any such adapting take?

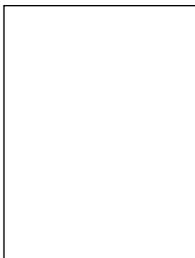
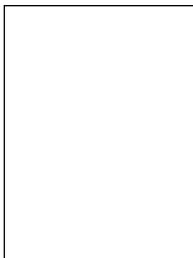
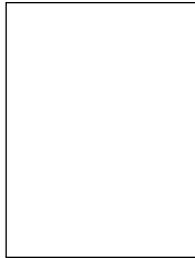
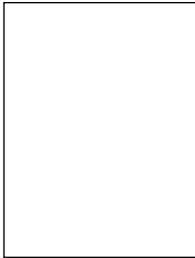
Any organization, if it intends to be successful, should be open to adaptive measures. However, our core commitment must always remain with our members in the workplace even as we seek to enhance our role in the communities by finding new allies in the fight for economic and social justice.

Steven was born the sixth of eight children in Brighton, Massachusetts and grew up in a union household in Watertown. Shortly after beginning work for Amtrak in 1972, Steven got involved with his union and rose through the ranks of the Transportation Communications International Union to become the Division Chairman of New England while continuing to work full time for the railroad. He graduated the Harvard Trade Union Program in 1980. In 1994, Steven was elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives from his community of



Allston/Brighton. During this time he continued his studies at night and received a Bachelor's Degree in Law and Labor Studies from the University of Massachusetts at Boston. In 1998, Steven was elected to the Massachusetts State Senate where he served

seven terms and was a member of the Senate President's leadership team until being elected as the President of the Massachusetts AFL-CIO in 2011. He and his wife Susan live in Brighton with their daughters, Victoria and Siobhan, and their son, Steven, Jr.



# THE MEMBERS OF LOCAL 147, L.I.U.N.A.



## EXTEND THEIR BEST WISHES

**RICHARD T. FITZSIMMONS**  
BUSINESS MANAGER

**JAMES RYAN**  
PRESIDENT

**ANTHONY SYLVESTER**  
VICE PRESIDENT

**CHRIS FITZSIMMONS**  
SECRETARY-TREASURER  
TRAINING DIRECTOR

**EDWARD MALLON**  
BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE

**CHARLES CANNON**  
RECORDING SECRETARY

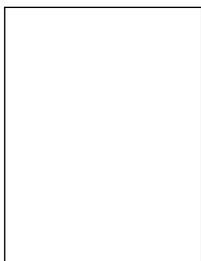
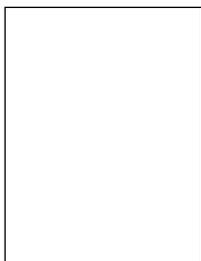
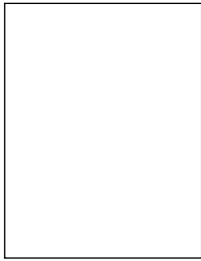
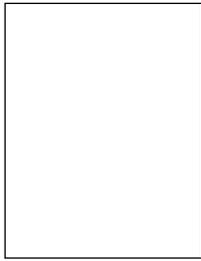
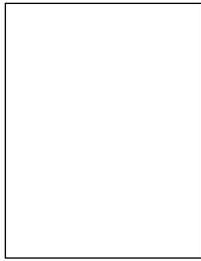
**MICHAEL O'SHEA**  
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

**BRIAN THORNE**  
EXECUTIVE BOARD

**ANDREW HICKEY**  
EXECUTIVE BOARD

4332 Katonah Avenue • Bronx, NY 10470  
Tel: 718-994-6664 • Fax: 718-994-5717

# IRISH LABOR 100





*On Behalf of the Executive Board of the  
Metropolitan Transportation Authority  
Police Benevolent Association*

*We would like to congratulate*

*Michael O' Meara*

*on your selection to the 100 most influential  
Irish Labor Leaders*

**CONGRATULATIONS**

to

**NOEL CASEY**

**An Outstanding Labor Leader**

Sean Downes, Attorney at Law  
11 Hanover Square, 20th Floor  
New York, NY 10005

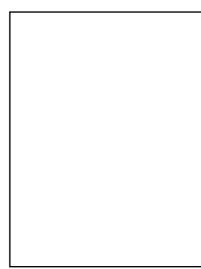
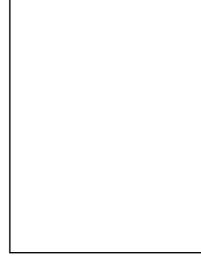
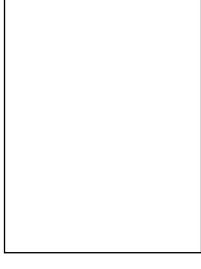
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**Congratulations  
Matthew Chartrand  
Business Manager/FST  
of Iron Workers Local 361  
2013 Irish Labor Honoree  
from**

**The Officers and Members of Iron Workers Local 361  
89-19 97th Avenue  
Ozone Park, NY 11416**

**Matthew Chartrand**  
*Business Manager/FST*

**Anthony DeBlasie**  
*President*  
*Assistant Apprentice Coordinator*

**John Cush**  
*Vice President, Business Agent*

**John Delaney Jr.**  
*Recording Secretary*

**Executive Board**

*Geroge Berry*  
*Joseph Casino*  
*Francis DeBlasie*  
*George Goodleaf Jr.*  
*Robert White*

**Examining Board**

*John Cavanagh*  
*Paul Schwan*

**Trustees**

*Anthony Cush*  
*Kevin Delaney*  
*Vincent DiGiacomo*

**Sergeant-At-Arms**

*Diego Dumas*

**Conductor**

*Dave Broderick*

**Delegates to District Council of Iron Workers**

*Matthwe Chartrand*  
*Anthony DeBlasie*  
*John Cush*  
*John Delaney Jr.*

**Trustees to Union Security Funds**

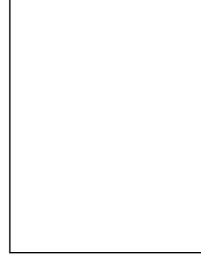
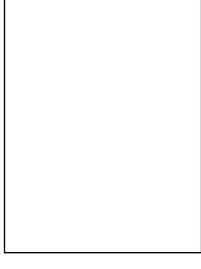
*Matthew Chartrand*  
*Anthony DeBlasie*  
*John Cush*

**Business Manager Emeritus**

*Raymond Zinser*

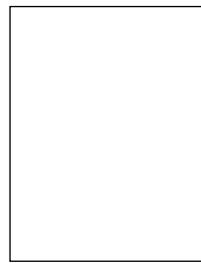
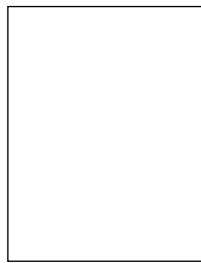
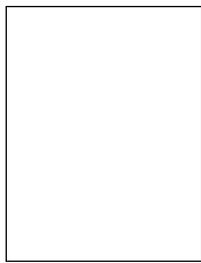
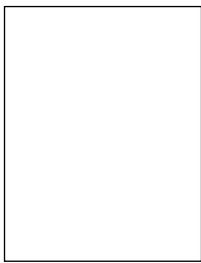


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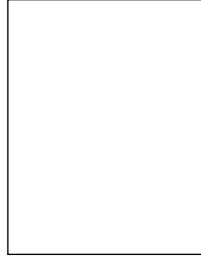
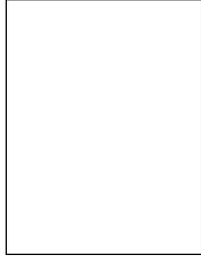
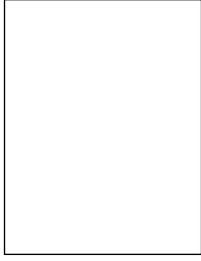
# IRISH LABOR 100





# IRISH LABOR 100

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# The United Federation of Teachers

Salutes

## The Irish Echo's 2013 Awards Banquet

We join in celebrating 100 of the leading  
Irish-American contributors to today's labor  
movement, including the UFT's own

Joe Brogan, Maura Donnelly  
Ann Garvey, Doris Marie Meyer  
Maura Mulligan, Alice O'Neil,  
Doreen Raftery and Joe Seletski



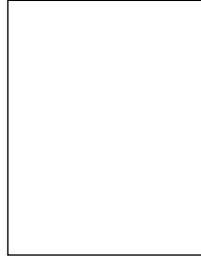
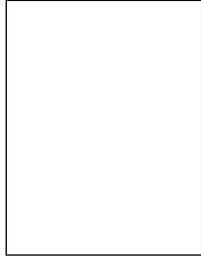
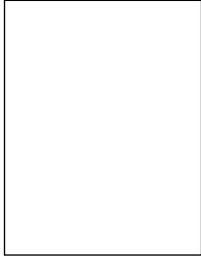
United Federation of Teachers

*A Union of Professionals*

Michael Mulgrew, President  
52 Broadway, New York, NY 10004  
[www.uft.org](http://www.uft.org)

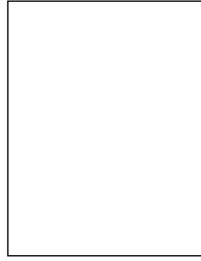
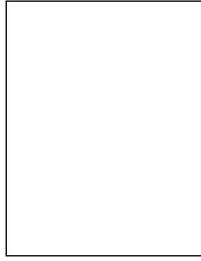
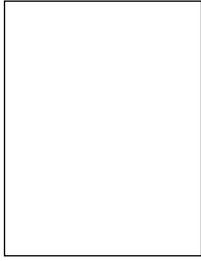
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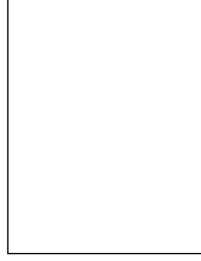
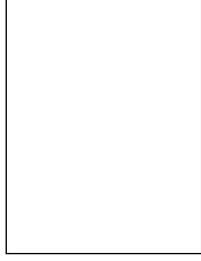
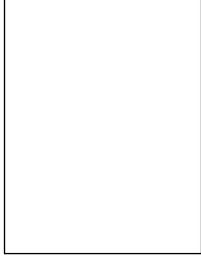


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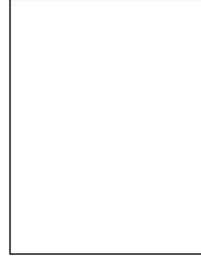
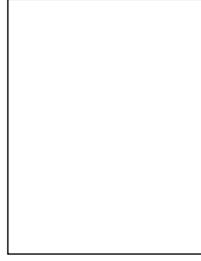
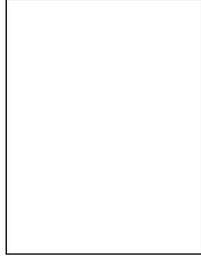
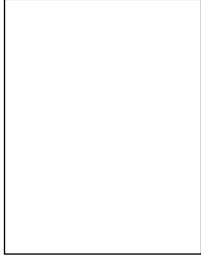


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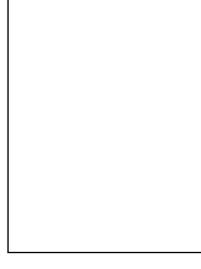
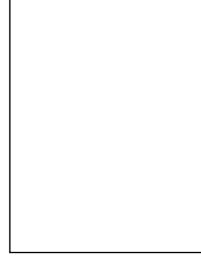
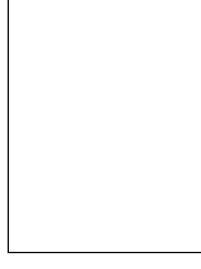
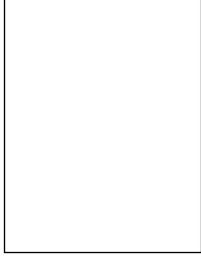


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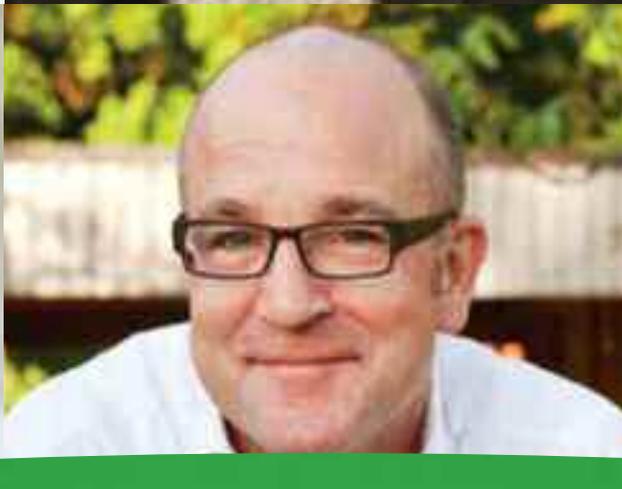
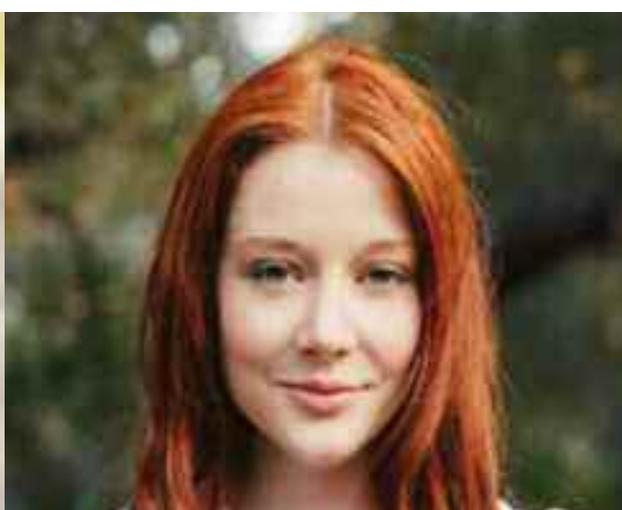




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