

# The Record

LOCAL 1-2

## DAY OF ACTION ON WALL STREET LOCAL 1-2 TAKES ON THE BOSSES



**Of course we will continue to seek to improve working conditions for the workers of America—to reduce hours over-long, to increase wages that spell starvation, to end the labor of children, to wipe out sweatshops. Of course we will continue every effort to end monopoly in business, to support collective bargaining, to stop unfair competition, to abolish dishonorable trade practices. For all these we have only just begun to fight**

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Madison Square Garden, 1936



# The Record

Utility Worker Union of America,  
AFL-CIO, Local 1-2

Harry J. Farrell  
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Andrew O'Connell  
**Vice President**

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**Secretary-Treasurer**

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Harry J. Farrell

**Your Views  
And Comments  
Are Welcome**

# THE RECORD LOCAL 1-2

Vol. LXI, No. 521  
April 2011

## **Which Side Are You on?**

*By Florence Reese*

(American social activist, poet, and folksong writer. Written in 1931 during a strike by the United Mine Workers of America in which her husband, Sam Reece, was an organizer.)

Come all of you good workers,  
 Good news to you I'll tell,  
 Of how that good old union  
 Has come in here to dwell.  
 Which side are you on?  
 My daddy was a miner,  
 And I'm a miner's son,  
 And I'll stick with the union,  
 Till every battle's won.  
 They say in Harlan County,  
 There are no neutrals there.  
 You'll either be a union man,  
 Or a thug for J.H. Blair.  
 Oh, workers can you stand it?  
 Oh, tell me how you can.  
 Will you be a lousy scab,  
 Or will you be a man?  
 Don't scab for the bosses,  
 Don't listen to their lies.  
 Us poor folks haven't got a chance,  
 Unless we organize.



**“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”** George Santayana (American philosopher, 1903)

Wisconsin, Indiana, Ohio and the list goes on of states where workers' rights are under attack. All across the country from Honolulu to Philadelphia, Union busting is alive and well. And make no mistake, the bosses have all of us at Local 1-2 in their crosshairs.

In fact, as this issue of The Record goes to press, so-called lawmakers in Wisconsin have just voted to cancel collective bargaining rights for state workers. Whether or not this is even Constitutional is beside the point; the point is radicals on the hard right are going to any lengths to break the backs of Unions across the country. You know what I say to that? BS!

A pattern is emerging across our nation for certain

forces to push the idea that Unions and their members are expendable. And unless we stick together in solidarity, we are expendable. The Bosses and the politicians in their pockets can ignore us if we don't stand united. The only leverage a Union has when it comes to standing up to the Bosses and speaking truth to power is in our unity. When the Bosses can divide working men and women, then they have won. I've said it before and I'll say it again, "Apathy is lethal."

And if you don't think that the Bosses at Con Edison or the Bosses at our other employers aren't following this trend with keen interest, then you're not living on the same planet as the rest of us.

Here are a couple of news items that should give all of us a scare as we look to next year and the looming contract battle with Con Edison: "About 1,300 HECO (Hawaiian Electric Co.) workers...went on strike yesterday and began walking picket lines on Oahu...HECO workers said the two sides disagreed on a management proposal to raise the age of retirement with full benefits to 62 from 60; a proposed reduction in sick benefits; and a plan to create a two-tier contract with new hires

receiving lower wages and benefits." Honolulu Star Advertiser, March 5, 2011. Here's another that should send chills down your spine, from the Philadelphia Inquirer, Feb. 28, 2011. "African American, Hispanic, and female workers say they are frequently disparaged as inferior by their Korean managers. Some managers have slapped employees, workers say, and a male employee says he was repeatedly grabbed in the crotch by supervisors...Workers who are in contract negotiations with manufacturers Hyundai-Rotem USA Corp, after voting to join the Transport Workers Union...also contend that wages and benefits are so low that many employees must rely on food stamps and Medicaid."

I am here to tell you that if you don't think it can happen here. If you don't think it can happen to you and me. If you don't think that the Bosses at Con Ed are thinking along these Union-busting lines and getting ready for battle, then you are wrong-not just mistaken-but wrong, dead wrong! The Bosses are coming after us next year. Get ready, it's going to be a rough ride.

## FROM THE DESK OF .....

**ANDREW O'CONNELL – VICE-PRESIDENT, LOCAL 1-2**



In this issue of The Record you will read a short history of Local 1-2 covering its first 50 years. One of the most compelling aspects of this account, which resides in the permanent library collection at New York University, is the story of the fits and starts and struggles and battles we encountered along the way. It also gives a clear-eyed view of the steady attempts to hack away at our ranks over the years by the Bosses.

As President Farrell pointed out in his column, Unions and their members are facing hurdles that have not been experienced in the workplace in more than a century. Big money is the fuel feeding this Union-busting campaign and the Bosses think they hold the winning hand, making workers feel they are lucky to have a job.

As it was in 1903, so it is today: it's all about the money, and as income disparities continue to widen between workers - who create the wealth - and those who employ them -who reap the profits - the Bosses have become even more emboldened to fracture Unions, decimate their numbers and impose wages and work rules by proclamation.

The good news is that Local 1-2 is bucking that trend. In recent months we have concluded successful contracts for our Brothers and Sisters at NAES (formerly North American Energy Services) and for our Tree Trimmers employed by companies contracted to keep overhead power lines free of impediments. Both of these contracts were approved overwhelmingly by the Members and both included not only good wage increases but good benefits as well.

As we go to press, Local 1-2 is preparing for a tough fight with United Water of New Rochelle for our Member unit there and we are continuing our negotiations with the New York Power Authority for our Members who are now working under their

expired contract.

You all know that next year will be the big year for most of our Membership when we have to sit down with Con Edison to forge a new Collective Bargaining Agreement. President Farrell is right when he tells you that the Con Ed Bosses are licking their chops and will do anything to weaken Local 1-2. We intend to make sure that this never will happen.

So, if you run into a supervisor who hurries you along to get work done in an unsafe manner, call a time out. And likewise, make sure you take the time needed to comply in full with Con Ed's nefarious, punitive "Rules We Live By"; and if you have any beefs – including with those Rules, call your Shop Steward, call your Business Agent, keep in touch with the Local. We will stand up for your rights but you have to protect yourself and fight alongside us.

If history has taught us anything it is that workers can enjoy the fruits of their labor and part of its profits only when they stick together. Solidarity with our Brothers and Sisters is our weapon. They won't bust our Union!

## SCHOLARSHIP

### LOCAL 1-2 ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

# \$1,000 Grants Available to Children of Union Members

College-bound children of current and retired Local 1-2 Members are eligible to compete for \$1,000 grants under the Union's annual scholarship competition, announced Local 1-2. The program provides 22 scholarship grants, each in the amount of \$1,000, to be used toward the payment of college tuition and books.

"By offering these scholarships, we are investing in our children and in the future. We consider that a wise and prudent investment. We urge all eligible students to participate in this contest," the Local's President said.

To qualify as a candidate, a student must be a child of a Local 1-2 Member or Retiree, and be a high school Senior graduating in 2011. The scholarship will be paid only to

those who have declared their intention to enroll or are already enrolled in a post-high school institution certified by the Department of Education in the state where the institution is located. Applications (see box below) must be completed and mailed to Local 1-2 Utility Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO, 5 West 37th Street, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10018. All applications must be accompanied by a copy of the official transcript of high school grades covering the first six terms. The deadline for filing is Friday, June 24, 2011.

After the initial application step, scholarship candidates will be required to write an essay of 500 words or less at the Union office on a date to be announced. The topic of the essay will not be revealed

until that morning. Students will be required to bring their own writing implements and paper to complete this phase of the competition.

Members themselves, brothers and sisters of Members and the children of full-time Union Officers are excluded from participating in the contest. The 22 winners will be chosen on the basis of their school transcript records and the written essays. Winners will be notified by mail sometime in August and will receive their scholarships at Local 1-2's first General Membership Meeting after the summer, usually held in September. So don't waste time. Complete the application below, get a copy of your high school transcript and send in the material as quickly as possible.

## APPLICATION FOR THE LOCAL 1-2 SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST

*Sponsored by*

Local 1-2 Utility Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO  
5 West 37th Street, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10018 (212) 575-4400

(PLEASE PRINT)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent \_\_\_\_\_

Employee No. \_\_\_\_\_

Dept. \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Work Location \_\_\_\_\_

Shop Steward \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

I expect to graduate from \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ High School

Located at \_\_\_\_\_

I expect to attend \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ College or School

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

This is to certify that the Candidate, whose name is written on the application, is a candidate for graduation, the term ending \_\_\_\_\_ 2011.

Principal's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

To Principals - Please Note:

Applications must be returned by Friday, June 24, 2011 and must be accompanied by: Official Transcript of High School Grades for the first six terms.

# HELLGATE MEMORIAL



## The History of Local 1-2, 1938-1990

The history of Local 1-2 properly begins with the Utility Workers Organizing Committee(UWOC) established by the Congress of Industrial Organizations in 1938. Previous practice within the industry had been to have company unions, easily controlled by management. Organizing was facilitated in the New York area by a merger of older local companies (New York Edison, Bronx Gas, the New Amsterdam Company, Central Union Gas, Northern Gas and others) into the Consolidated Edison Company(ConEd). One year after the merger the AFL-affiliated IBEW obtained the right to represent ConEd employees, and soon issued charters to each of the seven company unions.

In 1940, after a bitter intra-union dispute in the IBEW between the newly organized utility workers and electrical workers, the ConEd employees pulled out of the international union. The seven utility locals constituted themselves as the Brotherhood of Consolidated Edison Employees. As a newly independent utility workers union, the body took the name Local 1-2, representing the separate identities of two major categories, plant and clerical employees, within ConEd. The governing Council of the Brotherhood included representatives of both categories of workers. The Brotherhood eventually came to represent all unionized workers at ConEd.

In 1945 the Brotherhood was invited to become part of the CIO's Utility Workers Organizing Committee; it would make a significant contribution to the size and power of this body. In 1946, with more than 180 locals organized nationwide, the UWOC transformed itself into the Utility Workers Union of America, CIO. Three of the top officers of the new international union came from New York's Local 1-2.

The first administration of Local 1-2 remained in office for seventeen years, with Paddy McGrath and Andrew McMann as president and Business Agent, and Richland and Marsini as Assistant Business Agents. The personal popularity of McGrath, combined with a system of elections which heavily favored the incumbents, assured the continuation in office of the old guard. In the mid-1950s challenges to the incumbents were mounted by a number of groups, including the United Social Club (Joe Murray), the Security Party (Jim Geoghegan), the Rider Avenue Committee (Sampson and McMann, who had split from the McGrath slate) and "Steam." At the same time, the insurgents attempted to change the by-laws, to replace the practice of system-wide elections and appointed business agents with section-based elections for Board members and business agents - and slates for top officers. In 1958, in a marathon caucus meeting at the New Yorker Hotel, the challengers finally got together and fielded a joint slate known as "The Coalition." In one of the first elections to be conducted by the American Arbitration Association; 16,000 out of 20,000 eligible voters participated. The ballots took several days to count and the opposition won by a substantial margin.

## The History of Local 1-2, 1938-1990

Despite a number of disputes and defections within the Coalition alliance, the new administration managed to remain in office until 1990, when a new insurgent group, the Justice Party turned them out after a hard-fought campaign. Against a backdrop of ongoing internal struggles, the Local also faced a number of challenges from the outside, and an uphill fight against ConEd's attempts to hold back wage increases, trim benefits, and shrink the workforce.

Between 1958 and 1962 ConEd bought three power plants from the Transit Authority. Workers in these plants had been represented by Transport Workers Union, Local 101, and the transfer of the plants led to a battle between the TWU and Local 1-2 for jurisdiction over those workers. Local 1-2 emerged victorious, and thereby gained 2,000 members.

The Local has long faced serious health and safety issues, including high rates of cancer among members exposed to asbestos, PCB's, and other toxic substances, and severe injuries due to fire and explosions. There have also been debates within the union about discriminatory practices in ConEd hiring, about the use of nuclear power, and the constant threat of downsizing in the ConEd workforce. In 1968 the Local mounted a two-week strike, which resulted in a return to work with acceptance of the company's original offer. A more debilitating nine-week strike in 1983 resulted in losses for the union, and widespread dissatisfaction with the Local leadership among members. The company had responded quickly and effectively to the black-out threat, demonstrated its ability to run the system using supervisors and even handled a fire emergency in mid-town in record time. After the 1983 strike, the workforce, which had already declined from its 1958 peak of 25,000, was reduced through attrition to 13,000.

Hard times in the Local brought a new series of challenges to the leadership in the late 1980s. In the face of a serious threat from the Unity Party, headed by Mike Cotter, James Joy returned to the post of Business Manager of the Local after serving as International president. He arranged a temporary truce, creating a special post for Cotter - but strife continued, as the leadership sought to oust Cotter and a court-ordered election was held, which restored him to his post. A new round of by-laws changes resulted in the victory of the Justice Party, and its presidential candidate, John Goodman, in September 1990.

Sources:

*For a more detailed history of the Local see the typescript survey report (Harry Van Arsdale Labor Records Project, Survey #387) produced by Jane Latour for the Robert F. Wagner Labor Archives in 1991.*

# AMERICAN WATER WALL STREET DEMONSTRATION



**ONLY THE BOSSES HATE THE MOBILE OFFICE**  
**A Day of Service on Irving Place**



# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

UTILITY WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA, AFL-CIO  
LOCAL 1-2  
Statement of Financial Position  
December 31, 2010

## ASSETS

	General Fund	Defense Fund	Officers' Good and Welfare Fund	Political Action Fund	Eliminations	Total
<b>Current assets:</b>						
Cash and cash equivalents:						
Cash	\$ 248,845	\$ 117,194	\$ 2,577	\$ 15,066	\$ -	\$ 383,712
Cash equivalents	693,484	746,894	-	-	-	1,440,378
Total cash and cash equivalents	942,329	864,088	2,577	15,066	-	1,824,090
Receivables:						
Dues	41,955	-	-	-	-	41,955
Interest	966	9,459	-	-	-	10,125
Due from other funds	-	16,712	-	-	(16,712)	-
Total receivables	42,921	26,171	-	-	(16,712)	52,380
Prepaid expenses	61,598	-	-	-	-	61,598
Prepaid pension	7,848	-	-	-	-	7,848
Total prepaid expenses	69,446	-	-	-	-	69,446
Total current assets	1,054,396	890,259	2,577	15,066	(16,712)	1,945,616
<b>Non-current assets:</b>						
Long-term investments	164,166	1,077,382	-	-	-	1,241,548
Security deposits	38,104	-	-	-	-	38,104
Property assets, net of accumulated depreciation and amortization	151,830	-	-	-	-	151,830
Total non-current assets	354,100	1,077,382	-	-	-	1,431,482
Total assets	\$ 1,408,496	\$ 1,967,641	\$ 2,577	\$ 15,066	\$ (16,712)	\$ 3,377,968

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

UTILITY WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA, AFL-CIO  
 LOCAL 1-2  
 Statement of Financial Position (Continued)  
 December 31, 2010

	General Fund	Defense Fund	Officers' Good and Welfare Fund	Political Action Fund	Eliminations	Total
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>						
<b>Current liabilities:</b>						
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 242,898	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 242,898
Liability for supplemental pension plan - current portion	35,667	-	-	-	-	35,667
Due to other funds	16,712	-	-	-	(16,712)	-
Total current liabilities	295,277	-	-	-	(16,712)	278,565
<b>Non-current liabilities:</b>						
Liability for supplemental pension plan - non-current portion	349,206	-	-	-	-	349,206
Liability for deferred compensation plan	137,212	-	-	-	-	137,212
Total non-current liabilities	486,418	-	-	-	-	486,418
Total liabilities	781,695	-	-	-	(16,712)	764,983
Unrestricted net assets	626,801	1,967,641	2,577	15,096	-	2,612,115
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 1,408,496	\$ 1,967,641	\$ 2,577	\$ 15,096	\$ (16,712)	\$ 3,377,098

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## UTILITY WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA, AFL-CIO

### LOCAL 1-2

#### Statements of Activities

For the three months and year ended December 31, 2010

	Three Months				Year					
	General Fund	Defense Fund	Officers' Good and Welfare Fund	Political Action Fund	Total	General Fund	Defense Fund	Officers' Good and Welfare Fund	Political Action Fund	Total
<b>Revenue:</b>										
Dues and initiation fees	\$ 1,863,556	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,863,556	\$ 7,480,984	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,480,984
Interest and dividends	(867)	16,843	-	-	15,776	3,334	56,240	-	-	59,574
Unrealized appreciation in fair value of investments	564	16,851	-	-	17,415	564	16,851	-	-	17,415
Other	839	-	-	965	1,804	6,279	-	-	5,382	11,659
<b>Total revenue</b>	<u>1,864,092</u>	<u>33,494</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>965</u>	<u>1,868,551</u>	<u>7,491,161</u>	<u>73,091</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,382</u>	<u>7,569,632</u>
<b>Expenses:</b>										
Program services - member services	1,524,546	1,723	-	6,016	1,532,287	6,156,934	6,754	252	6,902	6,170,842
Supporting activities - management and general	381,138	-	-	-	381,138	1,539,234	-	-	-	1,539,234
<b>Total expenses</b>	<u>1,905,686</u>	<u>1,723</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,016</u>	<u>1,913,425</u>	<u>7,696,168</u>	<u>6,754</u>	<u>252</u>	<u>6,902</u>	<u>7,710,076</u>
<b>Change in net assets</b>	<u>\$ (41,594)</u>	<u>\$ 31,771</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (5,051)</u>	<u>\$ (14,874)</u>	<u>(205,007)</u>	<u>66,337</u>	<u>(252)</u>	<u>(1,522)</u>	<u>(140,444)</u>
<b>Unrestricted net assets:</b>										
Beginning of period						831,808	1,901,304	2,829	46,618	2,752,559
End of period						<u>\$ 626,801</u>	<u>\$ 1,967,641</u>	<u>\$ 2,577</u>	<u>\$ 45,096</u>	<u>\$ 2,612,115</u>

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## UTILITY WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA, AFL-CIO

### LOCAL 1-2

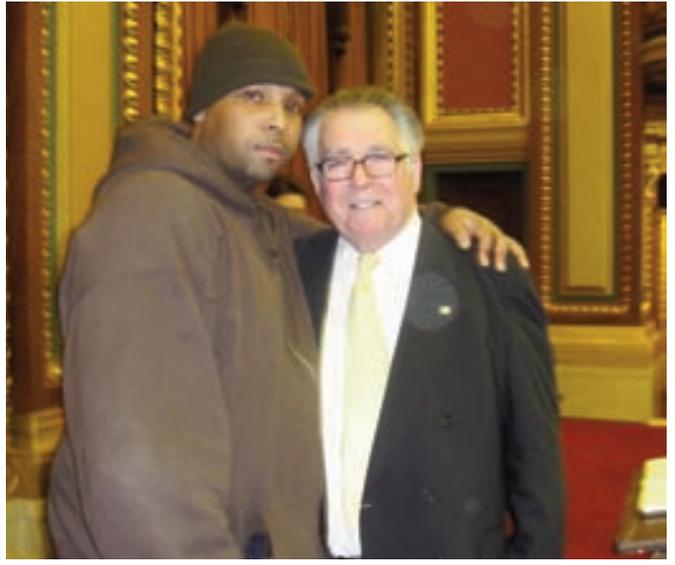
#### (Supplemental Schedules)

#### Schedules of Expenses

For the three months and year ended December 31, 2019

	Three Months				Year					
	General Fund	Defense Fund	Officers' Good and Welfare Fund	Political Action Fund	Total	General Fund	Defense Fund	Officers' Good and Welfare Fund	Political Action Fund	Total
Salaries	\$ 559,059	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 559,059	\$ 2,151,356	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,151,356
Payroll taxes	28,099	-	-	-	28,099	150,339	-	-	-	150,339
Employee benefits	140,585	-	-	-	140,585	563,608	-	-	-	563,608
Business agents' expenses	63,651	-	-	-	63,651	202,745	-	-	-	202,745
Lost time wages	41,538	-	-	-	41,538	157,328	-	-	-	157,328
Executive board and other allowances	32,808	-	-	-	32,808	142,393	-	-	-	142,393
Per capita taxes:										
National union	483,519	-	-	-	483,519	1,964,823	-	-	-	1,964,823
Other	9,777	-	-	-	9,777	39,151	-	-	-	39,151
Automobile expenses	30,300	-	-	-	30,300	220,906	-	-	-	220,906
Meetings, conferences and negotiations	12,162	-	-	-	12,162	143,291	-	-	-	143,291
Education, books and publications	21,754	-	-	-	21,754	39,570	-	-	-	39,570
Contributions, gifts and awards	106,520	-	-	6,250	112,770	207,342	-	6,750	-	214,082
Rent and utilities	46,745	-	-	-	46,745	274,765	-	-	-	274,765
Insurance	23,438	-	-	-	23,438	85,195	-	-	-	85,195
Repairs and maintenance	7,729	-	-	-	7,729	33,564	-	-	-	33,564
Computer expenses	6,455	-	-	-	6,455	34,044	-	-	-	34,044
Printing and postage	43,203	-	-	-	43,203	369,008	-	-	-	369,008
Telephone	12,430	-	-	-	12,430	41,921	-	-	-	41,921
Office supplies and expenses	7,246	-	-	-	7,246	30,832	-	-	-	30,832
Equipment rental	7,986	-	-	-	7,986	28,123	-	-	-	28,123
Depreciation and amortization	21,796	-	-	-	21,796	33,796	-	-	-	33,796
Professional fees:										
Legal	88,819	-	-	-	88,819	296,745	-	-	-	296,745
Accounting	32,500	-	-	-	32,500	130,000	-	-	-	130,000
Arbitration	30,367	-	-	-	30,367	84,662	-	-	-	84,662
Other	42,462	-	-	-	42,462	234,124	-	-	-	234,124
Legal settlement	384	-	-	-	384	1,891	-	-	-	1,891
Election expenses	-	-	-	-	-	23,500	-	-	-	23,500
Investment expenses	-	1,723	-	-	1,723	-	6,754	-	-	6,754
Other	4,324	-	-	(234)	4,090	10,916	-	152	-	11,200
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$ 1,905,696</b>	<b>\$ 1,723</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 6,016</b>	<b>\$ 1,913,425</b>	<b>\$ 7,696,168</b>	<b>\$ 6,754</b>	<b>\$ 252</b>	<b>\$ 6,902</b>	<b>\$ 7,710,076</b>

# FEBRUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING





**UTILITY WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA**  
**Local 1-2, Affiliated with AFL-CIO**  
5 West 37th Street, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10018

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# UNION MEETING



## LOCAL 1-2

**UTILITY WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA, A.F.L.- C.I.O.**

## **MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**PLACE: HIGH SCHOOL OF FASHION**  
West 24TH STREET & SEVENTH AVENUE, N.Y.C.

**DATE: TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2011**  
**TIME: 6:15 P.M.**

**ADMISSION ONLY TO MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING  
BY UNION CARD OR COMPANY I.D. CARD**

*Fraternally,*

*Lucia E. Pagano*  
*Secretary-Treasurer*

**IT'S IMPORTANT**