



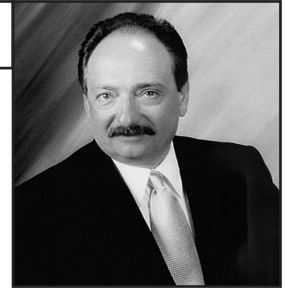
HEADWAY

A PUBLICATION OF THE TRANSIT MANAGERIAL BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 2021

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY MICHAEL J. LANDI



Now that we are in a new year, what will the new year bring? Hopefully, this finds you and your loved ones in good health and 2021 will be a better year so we could resume our meeting schedule. Due to the Corona Virus, our usual meeting place, after serving the community for 70 years, has gone out of business. Riccardo's by the Bridge has closed its doors permanently. We can't hold any General Meetings until the pandemic has passed and we find a suitable catering hall. If there are any changes you will be notified by mail, we will also post it on our website (mtatmba.org). The TMBA Scholarship Dinner dance where we honor our Managers of the Year and our Scholarship winners were also cancelled. Due to the Corona virus restrictions, the Scholarship winners for 2020 have not yet been selected. Applications for 2021 have not been posted. Stay safe, healthy and practice Social Distancing.

Mr. George Russo, Retirement Counselor, Prudential Retirement group, was to be our guest speaker for one of our meetings. Mr. Russo handles the Prudential's 401/457K plans. However, due to the Corona Virus we had to cancel his presentation. Mr. Russo is available to speak with a member. If you need information or assistance with your 401/457K PLANS. He can be reached at 917-579-3851 or at George.russo@prudential.com

From the Retirees Corner, Retired member Michael T. Calabro, reported that the MTA

Employee Pass Unit at 180 Livingston Street is closed to walk-in renewals or any other Employee Pass concerns due to Corona

Virus precautions. Appointments, if necessary, can be made by calling (347) 643-8316. The good news is pensioners will receive new passes two weeks prior to their expiration date automatically in the mail. No notification is necessary. For those, whose pass has been expired for a while can call the above number and give the unit representative your information."

Mike also reports that "the Covid 19 Corona virus has been a difficult enemy to combat. We as the TMBA leave to you whether to get the vaccine or not. If you are, then contact your local County for updates for how and when you may be able to be vaccinated. Most counties are re-evaluating their procedures and giving priority vaccines to the elderly, first responders, and essential workers. Please follow your instincts and schedule an appointment as soon as possible if you are so inclined. If you are a Veteran and are registered with a VA facility, call them. They are giving Vaccines by appointment. As of now you must be over 75 years of age. However, call, maybe the age requirement will change.

It has been reported to us that Due to the Corona Virus, and the lack of funding, the MTA has suspended all negotiations with the

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Unions. Hopefully, everyone will be back on track (pardon the pun) soon.

In the 2019/2020 legislative year an Early Retirement Bill was submitted in Albany. The Bill A.10595/S.08599 was submitted to the Committee on Governmental Employees on June 5, 2020. As of December 31, 2020, there is no fiscal note and no committee or floor vote. So, we feel since there has been no action, the bill will not move forward and will die in committee.

If you know of anyone retiring, or being promoted, or articles which may be of interest to the membership, please send the information to TMBA, P.O. Box 570087, Whitestone, NY, 11357-0087 and we will place their names and articles in the newsletter.

The Transit Managerial Benevolent Association extends its sincere condolences to the families of all of the transit employees, in all titles, in all MTA departments who passed

away because of the Corona Virus. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their families.

Remember, when you need to speak to a member of the Executive Board, or are moving to a new address, please notify us so we can update our records. If you are an operational manager from the Department of Buses call Carlos Pacheco at (718)-614-8042, if you are an operational manager from the Department of Subways, call Frank DeSimone at (917)-859-6843 and if you are an administrative manager call Debbie Martinez at (917)-881-2606 for assistance.

Congratulations to Barry Greenblatt, Frank Jezycki and John Santamaria on their retirement. We wish them a long healthy prosperous retirement.

I would like to say thank you to those of you who called or sent get well cards after my recent knee replacement surgery. They were greatly appreciated. Thank You!

STU'S CORNER BY STUART SALLES, ESQ.

In June of 2018 the Supreme Court of the United States issued a decision on the case of Janus. It involved the obligation of public sector union members to pay dues to their unions. The Court said they didn't have to. This is a follow-up to that discussion and the effect it has had.

Today many union members have decided not to pay dues. Yet the effect of the Janus

decision **STILL REQUIRES** the union to negotiate a Collective Bargaining Agreement for all union and non-union members and both get the same benefits. The only thing the union is not obligated to do is to represent the member in disciplinary proceedings So, if you are a person who doesn't get into trouble, you still get the same benefits not being in the union that you would get being in the union. Janus now says you have a choice.

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