



THE *Storeworker*

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Winter 2019

Local 3 RWDSU Member Holiday Luncheon



Local 3 RWDSU held its Annual Member Holiday Luncheon at St. Peter's Church, 54th Street, New York. Hundreds of members of our union family stopped by to eat, drink and be merry with their friends and fellow co-workers. RWDSU President Stuart Appelbaum, and Local 3 President Cassandra Berrocal, Secretary-Treasurer Shaun Kavanaugh, Recorder Costello Dash, the Local 3 Executive Board and Shop Stewards welcomed everyone and helped serve the delicious food and beverages. Everyone was relaxed and in good spirits, welcoming the opportunity to celebrate the holiday season.

Local 3 Union Member Orientations

Your union officers welcome and educate all new hires about their rights and responsibilities as a member of the union.

This includes an explanation of the extensive benefits and workplace protections provided through the collective bargaining agreement which are enforced by the union. Members are encouraged to stay informed, get involved and speak to their shop steward or call the union office if there are any work-related concerns or issues.



Local 3 President Cassandra Berrocal and Secretary Treasurer Shaun Kavanaugh with new Bloomingdales members at a New Union Member Orientation.



Local 3 Contractual Wage Increases

On December 31, 2018, New York City’s minimum wage increased to \$15.00 hourly, the highest in the country. This is a wage increase that the RWDSU, led by RWDSU President Stuart Appelbaum, fought for and won despite mounting opposition from business interests who claimed this would drive them out of business. Not surprisingly, the economy remains

healthy and the unemployment rate remains at an all-time low. When more money is put in workers’ pockets, they are able to spend and put those dollars directly back into the economy.

How does this affect you?

- Effective December 31, 2018, your union contract calls for an additional \$0.50 per hour wage increase above the \$15 hourly minimum wage rate for all full-time, regular part-time, and hourly paid employees.
- Additionally, effective March 1, 2019, ALL full-time, regular part-time and hourly paid employees will receive an additional general wage increase of \$0.65 per hour.

As those on the negotiating committee can attest, the economic package was extremely difficult. Local 3 members stood together and won a very strong contract that sets better standards for the industry-- one that recognizes and respects the hard work and contributions of all Bloomingdale’s workers.



On December 27, 2018, Local 3 carpenters and painters met with the union leadership and the financial adviser for an update of the Annuity Fund. This fund is a special provision of the contract that applies to the skilled trades division of the Collective Bargaining Unit.

Addressing Sexual Harassment and Discrimination in the Workplace



The Union plays a critical role in ensuring that members and all workers are protected against sexual harassment, violence and discrimination on the job. New York State and New York City recently passed comprehensive legislation to combat sexual harassment in the workplace. All employers

must adopt and distribute new policies and conduct annual training to comply with the law. **If you are experiencing any form of harassment or discrimination at your workplace, contact the Local 3 union office at (212) 371-6230, and ask to speak with an organizer.**

More information can be found on the New York State website www.ny.gov and the New York City Division of Human Rights website at www1.nyc.gov.

Free Tax Preparation

Local 3 has once again partnered with Bethpage Federal Credit Union through their Voluntary Tax Assistance Tax Program (VITA) to offer free tax preparation to eligible union members. Tax preparers (including bilingual preparers) will be available at **Bloomingdale's, 59th Street, 10th Floor, Training Room 2:**

Friday, February 15, 2019 10 AM to 5 PM

Friday, March 15, 2019 10 AM to 5 PM

To make an appointment, contact Local 3 at (212) 371-6230.



RWDSU Member Discounts

Going to the movies? Save 24% at Regal and AMC movie theaters. Planning a vacation? Save hundreds of dollars on admissions to theme parks and attractions as well as hotel stays and car rentals. Making a will? Buying a car? As a member of Local 3 RWDSU, you can save money by taking advantage of resources and discounts available to the union members of the RWDSU family. Visit and sign up at www.unionplus.org.

RWDSU Childcare Benefits

Since 2017, Local 3 Members have received nearly \$150,000 in childcare benefits. The awards vary depending on income and family size and the average award is approximately \$13,000 per family. If you need help paying for, or finding, affordable childcare, come to the Local 3 RWDSU Facilitated Childcare Enrollment meeting to learn more about this vital program: **Friday, March 15, 2019, 10 AM to 5 PM - Training Room 2 – 10th Floor**



Attorney General Elect Leticia “Tish” James – A Friend of Local 3 RWDSU

Tish James was elected Attorney General of the State of New York, becoming the first female and first African-American to serve in that position. Local 3 and the RWDSU were among her very first early endorsers. “Whether through legislation or on the picket lines fighting corporate greed, Leticia James has always stood with labor,” says RWDSU President Stuart Appelbaum. She comes from New York City, serving as Public Advocate and member of the City Council for over 10 years. As Attorney General, she and her formidable staff of over 600 Assistant Attorneys General are charged with defending the legal rights of the citizens of New York. We are proud of “Tish” and confident that she will continue to aggressively use her powers to serve and protect working people across the state.



(left to right) Local 3 Secretary-Treasurer, Shaun Kavanaugh, Attorney General Leticia James, and Local 3 President Cassandra Berrocal

Local 3 RWDSU Introduction to Computer Series Kicks off in February

Want to brush up on your computer skills? Learn the difference between ROM and RAM? Learn how to make fun, dynamic presentations, or how to use Microsoft Excel to organize your life? Check out the upcoming Intro to Computer Series running from February through April 2019. There’s something for everyone! All classes are at the RWDSU office at 370 Seventh Ave, Manhattan. Register by calling Maritza Diaz at Local 3 at (212) 371-6230, or ask to speak to an organizer.



- Basic Computers 1:** Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2019, 6:00 pm - 9:00pm
- Basic Computers 2:** Wednesday, Mar. 6, 2019, 6:00 pm - 9:00pm
- Microsoft PowerPoint:** Thursday, Feb. 28, 2019, 10:00 am - 2:00pm
- Microsoft Excel 1:** Thursday, Mar. 28, 2019, 10:00 am - 1:00pm
- Microsoft Excel 2:** Thursday, Apr. 4, 2019, 10:00 am - 1:00pm

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 (212) 371-6230
 President: Cassandra A. Berrocal
 Secretary-Treasurer: Shaun E. Kavanagh
 Recorder: Costello Dash

Contributions on topics of interest to members of the Union are invited.
Correspondence should be sent to the address above.