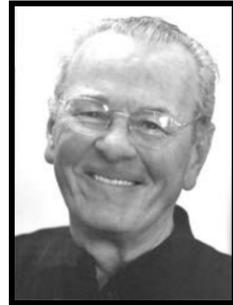


# OSA's LABOR HEROES OF 2011:

## Michael Collins, Marvin Lutenberg, Hank Mandel, Libby Mandel

The Organization of Staff Analysts honors four of our brothers and sisters for their decades of commitment to serving the public as civil servants, to serving the labor movement as activists and to serving our union as organizers and staff members. We especially salute the fact that they continued to bring their knowledge and capacity to the service of the members of the Organization of Staff Analysts well after their retirement from the city. For their extraordinary dedication, we are proud to name them OSA's Labor Heroes of 2011.

### Michael Collins



As he tells it, Michael Collins grew up "a bit of a gypsy," attending five schools in eight years as his family made frequent moves. Eventually, he left high school at 17 for seven years in the merchant marine and membership in the Seafarers International Union. A few years later, to preserve his recent marriage, he decided to abandon the seafarer's life for a job as a bus operator. He joined the then-private NYC Omnibus/Fifth Avenue Coach Company in 1954 and held several offices in the Transport Workers Union. A bus operator for 14 years, he was promoted to dispatcher in 1968 and soon became active in the Transit Supervisors Organization (TSO), first as chairman of the dispatchers' division and then, from 1976 to 1997, as the president of the union. During his tenure, TSO membership grew from 300 to over 1100 through consistent organizing. After his retirement from the TSO, Michael came to OSA in the late 1990s to assist us in our drive to organize Staff

Analysts in the Transit Authority. When OSA won the right to represent our brothers and sisters in transit, he stayed on to become OSA's transit representative, ably handling grievances, arbitrations and TA contract negotiations.

### Marvin Lutenberg



Ask Marvin Lutenberg about his work life and he is likely to say that one highlight was a 15-year stint driving a cab at night to supplement his city salary, giving him the chance to meet interesting folks and share his political views. But, it is his city and union service we note here. Marvin was born in Manhattan, attended Seward Park HS and graduated from City College in 1955 with a major in economics. Two years in the army broke up service as a caseworker with the NYC Welfare Department. Eventually, he joined the Health Department as a statistician, moving on to the Department of Buildings as a senior statistician. Recognizing the statisticians' need for representation, Marvin organized a union for the statisticians, gaining democratic rights on the job for 80-100 city workers. He brought the unit into Accountants Local 1407 of DC37 AFSCME and was elected DOB chapter chair, serving seven years before taking the Associate Staff Analyst exam. When Local 371/SSEU

launched a drive to organize the newly-broadbanded Staff Analyst series in the late 1970s, Marvin served as editor of *The Analyst Advance*, the drive's newsletter. Throughout his civil service career and into his retirement, Marvin was something of a fixture in the pages of DC37's *Public Employee Press* through regular letters to the editor. After he retired in 1994, he came to work at OSA, first as a volunteer and, later, in 2000, as a staffer holding down a range of administrative jobs, until his "second retirement" in 2011.

### Hank Mandel



What can you say about an individual who was still serving OSA members as he passed his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday? Thanks, for a start. Hank Mandel grew up in the Bronx, attending City College at night while working as a machinist at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. For two years, he was CCNY student body president. He served in the merchant marine and, during the 1948 Israeli war of independence, in the Israeli Army, rising to the rank of lieutenant. Among his more colorful achievements was setting up a "bazooka shell" plant before he was captured and deported. Armed with a degree in accounting, he went to work for the federal government as a Defense Department contracts officer. Eventually, he transferred to city government and the Health Department, where he rose to senior methods analyst and became active in the Association of Methods Analysts – a professional association that eventually merged into OSA. After retiring from city service in 1989, he started volunteering for the

union as a field representative and, later, a grievance staffer, becoming the founding director of OSA's grievance department. Until 2011, you would find Hank at his desk, a fixture in the union office, assisting and representing members in need.

### Libby Mandel



A lifelong Brooklynite, Libby Mandel was an office worker and labor activist in the wholesale stocking trade before she married and settled down to raise two daughters with her husband Hank. She began studying for her college degree before her marriage, then went back to school in the 1970s to obtain her degree in labor relations from Empire State College/Cornell. After her children were school-age, Libby went back to work, getting a job as a clerk for the New York City Department of Social Services and, later, working for the Board of Education as a school secretary. After retiring from the city, Libby joined her husband Hank working at the Organization of Staff Analysts in early 1994. She took part in the union's organizing drive in the Transit Authority in the late 1990s and later worked in various clerical roles for the union before retiring from union service in 2009. We celebrate her life and we mourn her recent passing.



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