

OSA's LABOR HEROES OF 2017

ARTHUR CHELIOTES AND GLORIA MIDDLETON

Many years ago a young Greek-American New Yorker made a poor choice. Instead of going into the family diner business, he chose to serve the public as a New York City civil servant. His error was our good fortune.

Arthur Cheliotis not only served the City well, he has served his fellow civil servants for over two score years. Arthur was an active member of his union from the start and, 38 years ago, he was chosen to lead Communications Workers of America Local 1180. The members of CWA Local 1180 chose Arthur for a second term and a third and on and on thereafter.

Arthur kept pleasing his members with his activity on their behalf, but he also assumed leadership roles with the Boy Scouts, CUNY's Murphy Institute for Worker Education and Labor Studies, the Civil Service Merit Council, the New York City Central Labor Council, the Medicare Rights Center and the NAACP.

He has been a leader in the Democratic Party and even was once the State Chairperson of the NY Labor Party.

Closer to home, Arthur found time



for the Hellenic-American Neighborhood Action Committee, the Greek-American Labor Council and his local Queens Community Planning Board.

Listing all the work he has done and awards he has received would be tedious. Instead, we will simply note his

many years as a member of the Municipal Labor Committee's Steering Committee. In that role, over many decades, he has helped to insure fair wages, decent health care and, through the MLC's Civil Service Committee, which he chairs, increased fairness for a third

of a million New Yorkers.

We cite one series of important actions by Arthur. First, he went to court to obtain civil service exams so his (largely) minority female members could be promoted through civil service exams. He won – and they won as well.

Next, he went to the Office of Collective Bargaining to obtain union status for his recently promoted “managers.” He won – and they won as well.

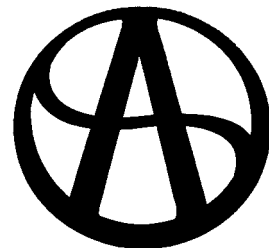
Finally, he went to court to attack the City for discriminating against 1180 members on the issue of fair pay for work done and the Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission agreed with him. He won – and now, his members will win as well.

All of this good work has taken years, a full lifetime well spent.

Now, Arthur is moving to insure a safe transition into the future for his union and his beloved Brothers and Sisters.

Arthur will be acting as assistant to Gloria Middleton, his successor, for a period to come.

We salute Arthur and Gloria as OSA's labor heroes for 2017. It is an honor well earned and truly deserved.



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OSA LABOR HERO AWARD WINNERS

2016 Joint UFT/OSA Organizing Team & OSA Uniformed Chapter Activists
2015 OSA Chief Negotiator Tim Collins
2014 DC37 Exec Director Lillian Roberts, CWA 1180 VP Linda Jenkins, and Doctors' Council President Dr. Barry Liebowitz
2013 OSA's Ida Chin and Cecelia McCarthy
2012 Occupy Wall Street