

OSA's LABOR HEROES OF 2019

THE MLC HEALTH TECHNICAL COMMITTEE - THE "TECHIES"

The Health Technical Committee of the Municipal Labor Committee is a generally unknown, but vitally important, part of labor negotiations on our behalf.

Christened the "Techies" by Randi Weingarten, these representatives of the MLC unions have the in-depth knowledge that enables us to equal or surpass the management experts that are sometimes sent in by the City to cut our health benefits.

Most of the time, both management and labor members of this committee work cooperatively to manage health care costs. Good deals are negotiated for hospital and medical care and watchdogs and consultants hired to ensure our monies are not wasted.

For example, when Medicare became available to cover City employees in 1966, the City was able to shift a huge portion of health care



costs for retirees onto the new programs.

City labor could have been a stumbling block, delaying or preventing this cost shifting, but we were not. We did, however, insist that Medicare Part B costs be borne by the City. In fairness, the City did agree and Tony Morelli, voting along with representatives of the other City

unions, also gave their consent.

Tony had started in 1947 as a Firefighter and retired as a Battalion Chief and, by 1966, was a representative for the Uniformed Fire Officers Association.

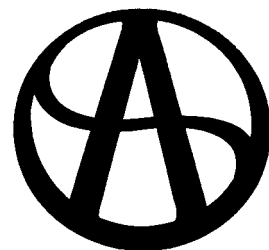
Tony Morelli continued serving the UFOA on the Health Technical Committee for many years, mentoring a younger assistant, Kevin

Sullivan, until 2003, when Tony passed away. Sixteen years later, Kevin is still an active and expert "Techie."

Most union members do not know the names of Roz Yasser (DC37) and Jeff Goldstein (UFT), or Artie Pepper (UFT) and Willie Chang (DC37) or Errol Ogman (SBA), Carmine Russo (DEA), Bill Kwasnicki (COBA), Debbie Bell (PSC/CUNY), or Irwin Shaness or Doug Hathaway (CSA) – or any of the many others who have played the part of "our" experts in fighting to continue our health coverage.

Over one hundred elected union presidents rely upon them to handle the complex details that end up affecting our health benefits. You may not know their names but, year in and year out, they have served you well.

They are OSA's Labor Heroes for 2019.



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