

OSA's LABOR HERO OF 2022

HARRY NESPOLI – CHAIR, MUNICIPAL LABOR COMMITTEE

Harry Nespoli believes in transparency – a lot. It has served him well over the years. In 2003, Mayor Bloomberg laid off 3,000 City workers to show the municipal unions that he could. He also spoke of laying off tens of thousands more but, as usual, he was bluffing.

Still, laying off 3,000 innocent workers to make a point was an evil act, but only one of the union presidents whose members were affected found a counter move that worked – and that was Harry.

As the President of Local 831 IBT, the Uniformed Sanitation Association, he saw 300 of his youngest members let go, with no idea of when they would be called back. He immediately set out to visit Community Boards all over the outer boroughs.

Harry was granted the right to speak to the community activists who make up each of the Boards. He promised them bad news and good news.

The bad news was that, due to the loss of 300 young Sanitation workers, garbage pickups had



been cut from twice a week to once. That was very bad because it meant the need to buy and store twice as many garbage cans.

It was also bad because that meant twice as much struggle to get the cans to the curb on the day of the pickup. And, he would conclude, the worst part of the news was that he had no idea when, if ever, Mayor Bloomberg would restore those jobs and the twice-weekly pickups.

Inevitably, some Community Board member would ask: "So, what's the good news?"

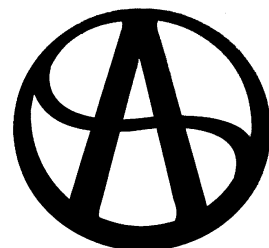
President Nespoli's face would light up as he would explain that, fortunately, the City had been able to maintain its three times a week pick-up schedule for Manhattan, South of 96th Street. Thus, the Mayor's neighborhood would in no way be inconvenienced by the layoffs.

Harry's visits to the Community Boards led to a rather large number of angry letters and phone calls to City Hall and the subsequent return to work of 300 young Sanitation workers.

Today, as Chairperson of the Municipal Labor Committee, Harry faces challenges as extreme as any in prior years. As always, we are not sure how it will all work out.

The Organization of Staff Analysts, however, does have faith in our leader, Harry Nespoli. If there is a way to overcome our problems and difficulties, he will find it.

That's why, in recognition of his many years of service to the Municipal Labor Committee, we are pleased to name him OSA's Labor Hero Of The Year for 2022.



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