



LOCAL UNION 28

METROPOLITAN NEW YORK AND LONG ISLAND

ERIC MESLIN
President and Business Manager

December 30, 2019

Re: Transition of MAP and Referral Hall Services

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I am writing to announce a very significant event in our Union's recent history. As all members are aware, Local 28 is a defendant (along with the Joint Apprentice Committee) in a long-running race and national origin discrimination lawsuit. In the course of this lawsuit, the Court has issued many orders. One such order, more than 35 years ago, provided for the Special Master to establish a Members Assistance Program ("MAP"). Another order, issued over 20 years ago, required the Union to make use of a Referral Hall, established and monitored by the Special Master. Both of these services have been run out of the Special Master's office since their inception.

Earlier this year, Local 28 filed an application with the Court seeking to transition both services – the MAP and the Referral Hall – to the Union and its related benefit funds. One of the reasons we filed this application is financial: we expect that the Union will save a great deal of money running these programs from its own offices. But more importantly, we believed that the time had finally come for Local 28 to provide its own members the same services that other unions throughout the country routinely provide to their members. A hearing on the Union's application was held on September 12, 2019. In a decision issued on October 22, 2019, the Court granted our application, finding that the Union had demonstrated that it "will be able to deliver the MAP/ETER Services commensurately with the delivery of those services as heretofore provided by the Special Master." A copy of the decision is available upon request.

The Union and the Welfare Fund will be taking over these services on February 1, 2020, and we have been working hard to ensure that we'll be ready. New offices have been constructed at 500 Greenwich Street to house both the Referral Hall and the MAP. There will be no change to the Referral Hall Rules, which are embodied in a court order, and no change in the telephone numbers for the Referral Hall. The new Referral Hall supervisor will be Kimi Kang (who used to work at the School); the Referral Hall operator will be Ashley Castro. I am also pleased to report that the current MAP Counselor, Molly Sage, will continue as Local 28's MAP Counselor. I am confident that our members will be well-served by Molly and by our new Referral Hall staff.

However, if any problems do arise, I want to know about them. If you believe that either program is not working the way it should, or that you have suffered discrimination of some kind, or that you have been mistreated in any way, I am asking you to say something about it. There are many ways to register a complaint. I have listed below the contact information for the Court Compliance Officer, the Union's EEO Coordinator, a representative of the Plaintiffs, Field Monitor Charlie Saunders, and the Special Master. Complaints can be made to any one of these individuals.

Francoise Jacobsohn, Court Compliance Officer: Direct Phone: (646) 893-4132
Secure Fax: (212) 202-3747
OCC Hotline: (800) 366-4814

Anthony Guerrero, EEO Coordinator: (516) 742-9478, ext. 8003

Plaintiffs' Class Counsel: (212) 909-7200

Charlie Saunders, Field Monitor: (212) 732-7897

David Raff, Special Master: (212) 732-7897

If you have questions about either program or about how this transition may affect the services you receive, feel free to contact the MAP or Referral Hall directly. I have listed contact information below for both offices.

Local 28 MAP: (212) 941-7700

Referral Hall: (212) 732-2490

Finally, I want to emphasize the importance of this transition for Local 28 and its members. It reflects our commitment to the goal of equal opportunity, and is also a measure of how far we have come. Of course, there are still challenges ahead of us, but I look forward to them – because with your help, I am confident we will succeed.

Fraternally,

Eric Meslin

Eric Meslin
President and Business Manager

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