



Transportation Columbia Association of New York Inc. NEWSLETTER

February, 2026

Presidents Message Paul Frank Gallo

Dear Members:

Happy Easter, Passover, Mother's Day, Father's Day & a Safe Memorial Day.

Meetings: The Officers will meet at **6:00 P.M.** and the General Membership at **7:00 P.M.** at our Brooklyn & Long Island Locations; at our Staten Island Location the Officers will meet at **5:00 P.M.** and the General Membership at **6:00 P.M.** (Refreshments will be served)

MEETING UPDATE & SPECIAL EVENTS

On behalf of the Transportation Columbia Association of New York, Inc.

Our thoughts, prayers and best wishes for a speedy recovery are with Mr. Peter R. DiPietro, Sergeant-At-Arms, Transportation Columbia Association of New York, Inc., who fell, needed hip replacement and metal plate to be put in his leg, also in our thoughts prayers and wishes for a speedy recovery. Mr. Michael J. Landi, Executive Secretary, Transportation Columbia Association of New York, Inc., who was in the hospital with pneumonia and other issues, is now in rehab. Ms. JoAnn Gundersen, Vice President, Emerald Society, NYCT, had Chest pains, 100% blockage, a stent was put in. Ms. Mary Bocchino, wife of past, member, Mr. Vincent Bocchino, Bus, Operator Jackie Gleason Depot, Department of Buses, MTA/ NYCT. She's in a rehab right now. She tore her Achillies and was in the hospital for a week then transferred to the rehab. Mr. Victor Guarino, formerly with the Department of Subways. He was in the hospital with pneumonia and recovering at home.

Keep praying for them and for a better year in 2026.

On a Happy Retirement Note: Mr. Bill Ciaccio, Project Controls Lead – C&D Systems, recognizing, Bill's Positive Contribution and Legacy of 46 years at MTA as an Outstanding Leader, Mentor and Hiring Manager, I am a perfect example of Bill's impact on so many people, since I was hired and promoted by Bill. He hired, promoted, and mentored many of his staff, as well as staff both inside C&D and in other MTA agencies. He is most proud of the literally hundreds of staff he helped over his career. Making a monumental difference in the world for humanity, I personally can't thank him enough for his support, guidance and friendship, God Bless.



Meeting held on Tuesday, November 18, 2025, in Brooklyn @ 7pm Pizza D'Amore 2147 Mill Avenue between Avenue U & Strickland Avenue

Bill Ciaccio, Project Controls Lead – C&D Systems, Retirement

Event Celebrate Bill's Positive Contribution and Legacy 46 years at MTA as an Outstanding Leader, Mentor and Hiring Manager, Date & Time: Wednesday, February 11 from 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM \$ Cost – Please pay in advance, \$45 per person for appetizers & gift (beer & wine first hour, Payment: Zelle or Venmo to Zara Marian – 45snowy@gmail.com Cash or Checks: Dorota Kulik A7.71; Jacinta Lopez B7.50; Zara Maria, A7.24 Location: White Horse Tavern, 25 Bridge Street, Financial District RSVP: Link below by February 6, 2026, <https://forms.office.com/g/WSpSFVsgER>, Zara Marian. Zelle or Venmo: 45snowy@gmail.com, 917-912-0404, 2 Broadway A7.24

We are reaching out to all our membership: to help with contributions towards the Scholarship of which is \$1000.00 and Death Benefit of which is \$150.00, since were not funded by City, State or Federal Government programs, our sources of revenue, are yearly dues, 50/50 raffle and the hope and prayers for a successful



Meeting held on Tuesday, December 2, 2025, in Brooklyn @ 7pm Pizza D'Amore 2147 Mill Avenue between Avenue U & Strickland Avenue

annual dinner dance! Also, any way you could help the Association by reaching out to your local merchants as well for gift cards, gift baskets or items to be raffled off would be of great help; keep me posted; bring the suggested items listed above to our meeting on either Tuesday June 2, 2026 or Tuesday, September 1, 2026 at our Brooklyn Location, many thanks again for all of your continued help, support and friendship.

March 3, 2026. Meeting- Tuesday, Pizza D' Amore 2147 Mill Avenue, Brooklyn NY, at 7pm Guest Speaker, Mr. Peter Mancini Pen Realty, Licensed Real Estate Associate Broker 347-736.8953 Cellphone 917-916-5126, 363 6th Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11215 <https://linktr.ee/Petermancini>. He will be discussing Real Estate & investments, and the **new COPA Law recently passed by the City Council.**

March 15, 2026, Festa San Giuseppe on Sunday, in Fatima Hall, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church 627 East 187th. Street Bronx, NY 10458. Further details to follow.

March 18, 2026, Wednesday at Long Island, Stella's Pizzeria & Cafe, 2831 Merrick Road Bellmore, NY at 7pm. Mr. Eugene Messmer, Police Officer, Nassau County Police Dept. Community Affairs, will be discussing how not to fall victim to phone, email, and online scams. Discover easy ways to spot red flags, protect your information, and stay safe.

March 26, 2026- Thursday (Special Meeting) in Staten Island at 3948 Amboy Road Amalgamated Union Hall (726) at 6pm; enter through the back by the parking lot and park. Ms. Sophie Selwood, Community Liaison, Richmond County District Attorney Michael E. McMahon, will offer an overview of the mission and role of the Office of the Richmond County District Attorney and provide information on the current state of public safety on Staten Island.

April 7, 2026. Meeting- Tuesday, Pizza D' Amore 2147 Mill Avenue, Brooklyn NY at 7pm. Ms. Michela Indelicato | CRPS@ Retirement Plan Counselor, Empower, dedicated to the MTA's Deferred Compensation Program, will be conducting a group presentation on your retirement distribution options. She will also be available for individual sessions before and after the meeting; her number is (718) 644-2255 or email michela.indelicato@empower.com

May 5, 2026. Meeting – Tuesday, Pizza D' Amore 2147 Mill Avenue, Brooklyn NY at 7pm. Mr. Richard Resnick will be discussing his Photography work, which has spanned six decades.

June 2, 2026. Meeting – Tuesday, Pizza D' Amore 2147 Mill Avenue, Brooklyn NY at 7pm, to be Announced.

Our Scholarship Application is due by August 14, 2026 (Enclosed). You must be a member in good standing who has been a member for three (3) years prior to the scholarship year and who is not delinquent in his or her dues for the current year.

September 25, 2026, Friday: Our Annual Scholarship Award Dinner Dance will be held at Sirico's 8015-23 13th. Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11228 @ 6pm-11pm, Friday, September 25, 2026 - **We will be honoring, Man of the Year,** Bill Amarosa, Jr. Executive Vice President, Subways, MTA New York City Transit, **Woman of the Year,** Zara Marian, Assistant Program Support Director Program Controls / Systems / Delivery MTA Construction & Development, **Special Recognition Award,** Joseph Betancourt,

(continued on reverse)



Meeting, held on December 11, 2025-Thursday (Hanukkah/Christmas Celebration) in Staten Island at 3948 Amboy Road Amalgamated Union Hall (726) 6pm.

Vice President, Transit Supervisors Organization, TWU Local 106 MTA/NYCT **Special Recognition Award**, Janine Materna, Deputy Chief, Ethics, Risk & Compliance Officer, MTA Corporate Compliance, **Sincere Gratitude Award**, Rakesh, Patel, P.E. Administrative Engineer, Work Car Engineering, CEE&TS, DCE, Department of Subways, MTA/NYCT, **Sincere Gratitude Award**, Kandreia L. Gonzalez, Associate Transit Customer Service Specialist II POWER (Electrical & Third Rail) Department of Subways MTA/NYCT. For tickets, Price per person is \$150.00, contact President/Chairperson Paul Gallo @ (718) 694-5804 or (516) 672-1588.



Meeting held on Tuesday, January 6, 2026, in Brooklyn @ 7pm Pizza D'Amore 2147 Mill Avenue between Avenue U & Strickland Avenue



President, Paul Gallo, making his 75th. Blood Donation on Friday, January 9, 2026

National Grid-Long Island Customers: Do you need help paying your energy bills? Sometimes circumstances make it difficult to pay your National Grid bill. Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) is a federally funded financial assistance program, designed to help income-eligible households pay energy bills. You may call for eligibility at (516) 227-8519. Project Warmth is the United Way of Long Island emergency assistance program. The program provides one-time assistance for fuel and/or fuel-related electricity emergencies, call (888)-774-7633 for assistance. Senior Citizens 60 years or older, disabled, or receive SSI, you can apply for HEAP at your local Senior Citizen's office or call (516) 227-7386. If you live other than Long Island, such as the NYC call 311 for assistance, and other municipalities call your local Municipal office for assistance, especially when you turn 65 for the enhanced STAR Program to reduce your Taxes.



Meeting held on January 21, 2026, Wednesday at Long Island, Stella's Pizzeria & Cafe, 2831 Merrick Road Bellmore, NY @ 7pm

4 Everyday ways to keep your Brain Sharp: Staying in shape goes beyond physical fitness, keeping your brain healthy top of mind is crucial for your overall well-being, too. To sharpen your mind, consider these everyday ways for prioritizing brain health. **1) Stimulate your mind**, while "exercising" typically refers to running, walking or biking, remember you can give your brain a workout as well, provide a boost for your brain with easy and enjoyable activities like reading, puzzles, math games or artistic challenges such as drawing or crafting. **2) Eat Healthy Foods**, establishing a strong foundation for brain health can start in the kitchen by preparing healthy foods. Adding whole grains, fish, healthy fats and fruits and vegetables, including grapes and leafy greens, can encourage better brain wellness. **3) Prioritize Mental Health**, reducing anxiety may be easier said than done, but I start with healthy everyday habits. Practice mindfulness meditating or simply turning off distractions like social media. Get outside for fresh air of find a happy you enjoy. Join a support group, reach out to loved ones and, if you feel you're experiencing negative mental health systems, talk with a mental health professional, **4) Exercise Regularly**, physical activities that increase your heart rate also increase blood flow to the brain and throughout your body. It doesn't have to be rigorous or strenuous, go for a walk around the neighborhood, dance in the living room, tend to your garden, or enjoy a bike ride when the weather cooperates. Remember to replenish your energy and hydration.

Fraternally,
Paul Frank Gallo.

"IN GOD WE TRUST"

Any comments or information that would be of interest, help & support our members in future newsletters please give me a call at (718) 694-5804 or (516) 672-1588.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (please print)

Dues \$50.00

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Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City/State _____ Zip _____

Please include your email address _____

Paying dues for 2026 2027 2028 2029 2030 Lifetime Member - \$250
 Renewal Retired Auxiliary Member New Member Change of Address

Make check Payable to: Transportation Columbia Association of New York Inc.
P.O. Box 810, Wantagh, New York 11793-0980