

OSA Political Action Committee

OSA has resisted the need for a Political Action Committee (PAC) for a very long time. Unlike many other unions, OSA has not put its efforts into fundraising for political affairs. We have been remiss.



OSA Chairperson Bob Croghan (l) joins Firefighters Union President Steve Cassidy (2nd from left) and District Council 37 Executive Director Lillian Roberts (r) in supporting 2009 mayoral candidate Bill Thompson (2nd from right).

Our democratic government is distorted by the current system of campaign financing, but it is the existing law for now. In effect, all parties must pay to play. Candidates must meet huge postage, printing and phone bills or else they can not seriously run for office. Citizens, in turn, either help the candidates overcome these costs or else it is difficult to attract legislators' attention to our issues.

Many other unions can and do spend large amounts on lobbying and still more on supporting favored candidates. The recent success of a joint effort of State and City unions to improve our pensions shows just how well such investment can pay off.

You are being asked to support our union's lobbying efforts through a bi-weekly contribution to the OSA PAC. The money will be used, subject to the approval of the union's executive board, to support candidates who help either our members or workers in general.

When there is a question

of a tax cut for business versus a pension increase for City workers, we can expect newspaper editorials in favor of the tax cut, commentary by the Manhattan Institute in favor of the tax cut, and lobbying by corporations for the tax cut, etc. All of this occurred this time, has occurred in the past and will occur in the future. We will favor better salaries for the underpaid, decent, hard-working civil servants, fair treatment, better health benefits and pensions and even a rare, once-in-a-lifetime sabbatical. If a member is found who opposes such goals, that member should not join nor give money to our PAC.

If, however, our goals seem agreeable, members need not fear the PAC monies being spent on issues unrelated to labor since our intention is to be narrowly focused on advancing the welfare of our active and retired members.

There are five levels of membership based upon the size of the sacrifice a member chooses:

Committee Member	\$39/year or	\$1.50 biweekly
Block Captain	\$65/year or	\$2.50 biweekly
District Leader	\$97.50/year or	\$3.75 biweekly
Inner Circle	\$130/year or	\$5.00 biweekly
Grand Poobah	\$260/year or	\$10.00 biweekly

The first three levels are based on OSA's history. OSA's dues level started at \$2 per year in 1970, but the City's current fee for "checkoff" would now absorb such an amount entirely. By the mid-1970's OSA's voluntary dues were \$39 annually. Later, there was a dollar increase biweekly (\$65/year) and, later yet, by the late 1980s, the dues had risen to \$97.50 annually. We went to 7/10ths of one percent of salary after achieving union status.

As is traditional, there are premiums.

At the **Committee Member** level, all members get a choice of a small desk clock, a paper clip holder, an erasable OSA note board with magnet backing, an OSA mug, or six OSA pens.



Mayor Michael Bloomberg, OSA Chair Bob Croghan, DC37 Executive Director Lillian Roberts, Labor Commissioner James Hanley, former MLC head Randi Weingarten and William Kwasnicky of the Correction Officers' Benevolent Assn. announce a deal to save the PICA drug program.



OSA Chair Bob Croghan and OSA Executive Director Sheila Gorsky flank Congressman Jerrold Nadler.

At the **Block Captain** level, you can choose two of the above and, in addition, either the OSA umbrella, the attractive OSA electric wall clock, the OSA tote bag, or the (coffee table sized) labor book "Ordinary People, Extraordinary Lives" by Bernhardt and Bernstein.

If you are able to manage the **District Leader** level, you can choose any three of the Committee Member level premiums, and any two of the Block Captain level.

If you wish to join the **Inner Circle**, you can choose any four premiums from the Committee Member level, plus all three of the Block Captain level.

Should you choose to go the entire distance and become a **Grand Poobah**, you will be treated – once a year – to an evening at OSA, meeting with the union leadership and some of those elected officials who we are backing.

Both **Inner Circle** and **Grand Poobah** memberships may also be invited on occasion to attend a "rubber chicken dinner." A "rubber chicken dinner" is an affair thrown by politicians to raise funds. Rubber chicken dinners are held in swell locations full of well-dressed folks who are very, very friendly.



OSA Chair Bob Croghan with (left to right) City Council Speaker Christine Quinn (left), former Councilmember Kendall Stewart and former Council Speaker Gifford Miller.

Unfortunately, after one's hundredth rubber chicken dinner, the joy pales. If you are generous enough to be willing to join the **Inner Circle** or to become a **Grand Poobah**, you are exactly the sort that will be very welcome at any politician's rubber chicken dinner. Taken in moderation, rubber chicken dinners are a nice way to spend an evening, may be the start of your political career and, contrary to their name, often provide very good food.

Please complete the OSA PAC contribution coupon that appears on the back of this brochure and indicate the level of your contribution and the premiums you wish to receive. It will be treated as your voluntary deduction approval coupon. Your name and amount of deduction will then be sent to the Office of Payroll Administration.



OSA Chair Bob Croghan endorses mayoral candidate Fernando Ferrer on the steps of City Hall in May, 2005.



OSA Chair Bob Croghan (far right) is joined by City Council member James Sanders, Jr. (left), former Council member Kendall Stewart (2nd left), NYS Assemblyman David Weprin (3rd left), City Council member Robert Jackson (at the podium) and NYS Senator Bill Perkins (2nd right). CWA Local 1180 President Arthur Cheliotos and IBEW Local 3 City Division head Gary Lane are behind Councilmember Jackson. At the time this photo was taken, all of the elected officials were members of the NYC Council.



2005 City Council candidates Dan Gorodnick, District 4 Manhattan (2nd from left) and Brian Kavanagh, District 2 Manhattan (2nd from right) get the endorsement from OSA Chair Bob Croghan (r) and Vice-Chair Tom Anderson (l). Garodnick was elected; Kavanagh went on to be elected to the New York State Assembly.



City Council member Charles Barron (l) and OSA Exec Bd member Al Milton (r).



New York State Senator Diane Savino holds framed copy of OSA advertisement in the Chief newspaper naming her and NYS Assemblymember Peter J. Abbate as OSA's labor heroes of 2009.



OSA endorses City Comptroller Bill Thompson for re-election in 2005 in front of City Hall.



Former City Council member Joseph Addabbo, Jr. (right) chairs a hearing on OSA complaints of agency abuses of the "1 in 3" rule in moving the Associate Staff Analyst list. Addabbo was later elected to the New York State Senate.



OSA Chair Bob Croghan with New York State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman.



NY State Senator Liz Krueger (left) joins former OSA attorney Joan Kiok (c) and OSA Chair Bob Croghan at an OSA holiday party.



2006 Green Party gubernatorial candidate Malachy McCourt (left) talks with (from right to left) OSA Vice-Chairperson Tom Anderson and OSA retirees Marvin Lutenberg and Michael Spector at the Labor Day Parade.



OSA Chair Bob Croghan delivers testimony at a November 2006 hearing of the City Council's Civil Service and Labor Committee on the "1 in 3" rule. He is joined by OSA staffer Joan Doheny.

Design & Photos: Rob Spencer

Additional Photos: Tom Gorse and Miller Photography (in DC37 Public Employee Press).

OSA PAC VOLUNTARY DEDUCTION COUPON

Please complete and mail to OSA PAC, 220 East 23rd Street, Suite 707, New York, NY 10010.

Name:	Agency:
Street Address:	City/State/Zip:
Home Phone:	Office Phone:
Social Security No.:	Title:

I wish to contribute at the following level –

<input type="checkbox"/> Committee Member (\$1.50 biweekly)	<input type="checkbox"/> Inner Circle (\$5.00 biweekly)
<input type="checkbox"/> Block Captain (\$2.50 biweekly)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grand Poobah (\$10.00 biweekly)
<input type="checkbox"/> District Leader (\$3.75 biweekly)	

Premiums

Committee Members choose one from Column A. **Block Captains** choose two from Column A and one from Column B. **District Leaders** choose four from Column A and two from Column B. **Inner Circle** members choose five from Column A and three from Column B. **Grand Poobahs** choose six from Column A and four from Column B, but are vulnerable to being asked to attend rubber chicken dinners.

COLUMN A	No.	COLUMN B	No.
OSA small desk clock		OSA umbrella	
OSA paper clip holder		OSA wall clock	
OSA note board		OSA tote bag	
OSA coffee mug		<i>Ordinary People, Extraordinary Lives</i> labor book	
Six OSA pens			

Special limited time only premium – a photo clock available to Grand Poobahs and Inner Circlers. Tom Gorse, grievance rep, is also a computer photo whiz. He’s offered to create a clock with any picture you supply (color or b/w) on its face. You’ll have a chance to work with Tom to create the final product. If you want to superimpose another background to an existing photo or add persons, Tom can do this. If you simply want a photo on the clock, send in the photo. If you want Tom to alter the photo on the computer, please consult with him. Caveat Pactor: the availability of this premium is entirely subject to Tom’s availability.