

In These Risky Times, We Need The #1 MOST POWERFUL LABOR LEADERS!

1199 members are facing severe threats to our wages, benefits, jobs and funding. No one can mobilize members to fight back—and hold executives and politicians accountable—like President George Gresham and Secretary Treasurer Milly Silva and the 1 Union 1 Future slate. George and Milly have unmatched clout with employers, elected officials and allies, and are consistently recognized as among the most powerful labor leaders in the nation. Their tireless work ethic comes from their deep dedication to building strength and unity for 1199 members. Here's more about their life and work in service to our union:



PRESIDENT GEORGE GRESHAM Nationally Recognized Labor Legend

George's leadership has secured the highest standards for healthcare workers in the entire nation, including unprecedented wage increases, affordable health benefits, dignified retirement, continuing education, child care, safe staffing and a real voice on the job. Few other union contracts even come close to our standards.

He has also led the Union's growth to more than 450,000 members throughout Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Washington, D.C. and Florida.

George's mother was a homecare worker and his father was a union truck driver. He began his career in the housekeeping department at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital. He soon moved up to become a clerk in the radiology department and then—through the 1199 Training Fund—studied to become an MRI Technologist.

He has held nearly every position in the Union and was elected president in 2007. George is a leader of many national organization boards, including:

NAACP



**children's
defense fund**

APRI
A. Philip Randolph Institute



**CITY &
STATE**

**#1 Most Influential
Union Leader in 2024**

Political Superstar

**Trailblazer in
Healthcare**

**The leader of the nation's
largest health care union,
George Gresham is delivering
for his members and
addressing health equity.**

**Gresham has been
outspoken in fighting
any proposal cutting the
health care budget.**

**Gresham was a leading voice
in favor of tenant protections
during last year's state
legislative session.**

POLITICS**NY**

**2024 Power Players in Health
Care and Labor**

Under his leadership, 1199SEIU has secured industry-leading job standards for health care workers and positioned the Union as a major force for advancing progressive causes.



SECRETARY-TREASURER MILLY SILVA

Trailblazer for Women of Color

- Nationally Recognized Latina Labor Leader
- 1199 Fighter for Over 20 Years
- Won Highest Contract Standards and Staffing Laws in the U.S.
- Proven Track Record of Standing Up to Political Bullies and Holding Bosses Accountable

Milly has dedicated her life to building worker power and fighting for economic, social and racial justice. Today, she is one of the most influential Latinas in the labor movement.

While earning a B.A. at Columbia University, Milly chose to give back to where she was born and raised, the Bronx. She became a community organizer, teaching direct action and empowering families to hold slumlords accountable, demand more parks and green space, and to stop abusive law enforcement practices.

Her tremendous organizing skills drew the attention of the labor movement, and she was recruited to be an organizer at 1199, where she led teams that unionized tens of thousands of home care workers.

Milly served as President of 1199 New Jersey's healthcare local and led a merger back into 1199UHE. She transformed the union into the state's leading voice for caregivers, mobilizing workers for major strikes that resulted in unprecedented wage increases and winning union benefit funds for the very first time.

In 2013, Barbara Buono and the NJ Democratic Party asked Milly to be their candidate for Lt. Governor, becoming the first person of color to run for the seat. She ran for office to give voice to working families' issues and to stand up to the unacceptable bullying of Chris Christie.

From 2016-2022, Milly directed 1199SEIU's nursing home division and led negotiations for 45,000 workers, securing master union contracts that maintain the highest job standards anywhere in the nation, while mobilizing members across states to defend against cuts and win major increases in Medicaid funding.

She led New Jersey nursing home caregivers to win the strongest CNA safe staffing law in the U.S. in 2020, and then won nursing home reform in New York. These policies became the inspiration for the federal nursing home staffing rules.

Like George, Milly's mom was a home care worker, and where she learned the value of education, hard work and service to others. Elected as the first-ever Latina Secretary-Treasurer by the membership in 2022, Milly ensures our union is financially healthy and thriving.

WXXI NEWS
1080

**Nursing home minimum
staffing law takes effect
in New York**

NJ Spotlight News

**Nursing homes will face
new frontline staffing
requirements**

**CITY &
STATE**
NEW YORK

**The Responsible 100 – Selfless New
Yorkers serving the common good.**

**JOIN OUR MOVEMENT to protect our wages,
benefits, jobs and funding at
1Union1Future.org**

