



AFL-CIO, CLC

# WHITE COLLAR

OFFICE AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION, AFL-CIO, CLC

No. 499, Issue 3, Summer 2007

24th Triennial Convention Issue



**Previous Convention Held in Hollywood, Florida  
June 21-24, 2004**

# OPEIU LEADERS

## PRINCIPAL OFFICERS



**Michael Goodwin**  
President



**Nancy Wohlforth**  
Secretary-Treasurer

## VICE PRESIDENTS



**Walter Allen Jr.**  
Region V



**John Conley**  
Region III



**Dan Dyer**  
Region II



**Theresa Kandt**  
Region VII



**Richard Lanigan**  
Region II



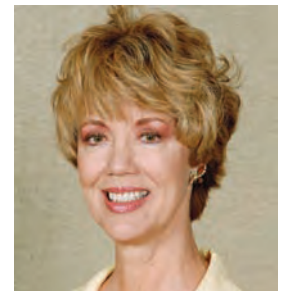
**Green P. Lewis**  
Region III



**Mary Mahoney**  
Region II



**John Mattiacci, D.P.M.**  
Region II



**Christine Page**  
Region V



**Phillip Pope**  
Region III



**Patricia Priloh**  
Region II



**Anita Roy**  
Region VII



**Tamara Rubyn**  
Region V



**Aaron E. Sanders**  
Region VII



**Becky Turner**  
Region IV



**Julie Weir**  
Region VII



**Judith Zenk**  
Region VI

## St. Vincent Nurses Vote Yes for Their Union!

The nurses employed at St. Vincent Hospital in Little Rock, Arkansas have rejected an effort by the “Nurses for a Free Choice” (NFC) to decertify the union, instead voting in favor of continued representation by OPEIU United Health Care Local 22.

Local 22 RNs, along with Senior International Organizer Donna Shaffer and International Representative Shelia Peacock, forged an aggressive campaign to save the

union contract. When the polls closed at 9 p.m. on April 21, 2007, and the ballots were counted, the RNs won the election by 110 “yes” votes — a vote of 334 to 224!

The National Labor Relations Board had notified OPEIU that a decertification election would be held on April 19-21. A few nurses who were involved with NFC filed a petition in 2003 to decertify the union, and their petition was denied that same year at the NLRB regional level. The bargaining of

the contract continued and a ratified agreement has been in place since April 2003. In 2006, no petition was filed during the open period to decertify the union, therefore, a second agreement was reached and in place when the appeal from 2003 was dusted off and the national NLRB in Washington, D.C.

*(Continued on page 15)*

### White Collar Special Supplement

Convention season is a good time to review the history of our Union, as well as to become better acquainted with our officers and employees. Included in this issue of *White Collar* is an exciting chronology of union and historical events. Take a look back in time when Elvis topped the charts, Jackie Robinson broke baseball’s color barrier and OPEIU was founded with just 22,000 members.

This special supplement begins on page 19, and contains detailed biographies of OPEIU International Representatives and elected officials.



Pictured (left to right) are Chief Steward Cheryle Coleman, Secretary-Treasurer Ann Marchand, Steward/Executive Board Member Kevin Harvey and Local 22 President Paige Yates.

# Special *White Collar* Issue Celebrating the OPEIU 24th Triennial Convention Held in Las Vegas, Nevada, June 18-21, 2007

## INSIDE

# ORGANIZING

F O R

# CHANGE

# 5

VOTE Fund Makes a Difference!

# 7

EMS Pilot Wins Arbitration

# 8

VP Anita Roy Honored

# 19

Special Supplement

# Editorial



## Minimum Wage Increase Passed

By Michael Goodwin, International President

After nearly eleven years since the passage of a minimum wage bill in 1996, the Congress passed a bill on Thursday, May 24, 2007 increasing the federal minimum wage by \$2.10 an hour to \$7.25 an hour over three years. The first of the three 70 cents an hour increases takes effect 60 days after the measure is signed by the president. The second and third increases are effective on the first and second anniversary of the 2007 increase.

The federal minimum wage will rise from its current \$5.15 an hour to \$5.85 an hour in 2007; \$6.55 an hour in 2008; and \$7.25 an hour in 2009.

The new Democratic leaders in Congress attached the provision to the \$120 billion Iraq war spending bill, which was vetoed by the president on May 1 because Democrats insisted on a pull-out date for American

troops. But with the House passing a rewritten bill by a vote of 280-142 and the Senate by 80-14, the longest stretch without an increase in the minimum wage since it was first established in 1938, has ended.

Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA) called the increase one of “the proudest achievements of this new Congress. We have overcome many obstacles and faced every procedural trick in the book to get this minimum-wage increase across the finish line,” he said. “Democrats stood together, and stood firm, to say that no one who works for a living should have to live in poverty.”

The Economic Policy Institute, a research group in Washington, D.C., estimates that 5.4 million workers or 4 percent of the workforce earn less than \$7.25 an hour. The \$7.25 an hour rate would increase the minimum annual pay to just over \$15,000 per year for the typically young, single, female, and often African-American and Hispanic workers.

“This is a great day for America’s middle class,” said Representative George Miller (D-CA), Chair of the recently renamed House Education and Labor Committee. “America’s workers have been waiting for a raise for a long time.”

Many states and the District of Columbia already have minimum wages higher than \$7.25 an hour including California, Connecticut, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont and Washington with Oregon, Vermont and Washington minimum wage laws containing provisions for automatic increases based on the rise in the cost of living. The states of Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina and Tennessee have no minimum wage laws and rely solely on the federal minimum wage.

The OPEIU and the AFL-CIO have hailed the increased minimum wage as a long awaited and long overdue achievement. Without the turnover in leadership of the 110th Congress from Republican to Democratic control last November, this legislation would never have passed.

The theme for this 24th Triennial Convention is “It Pays to Belong,” which not only applies to union members, but also applies to the 5.4 million workers “most of whom are not in the union.” When you vote into office candidates who care about the needs of working women and men, good things happen!

In addition, all workers gain from a minimum wage increase because, as union negotiators know, when we push up the bottom, we are also pushing up the rest of the pay scales all the way up to the top grades. When we reach out and offer a hand to increase the wages of the lowest paid among us, we are also helping ourselves. And the satisfaction gained from helping the neediest feels really good, too!

### History of Minimum Wage Increases

Effective Date	Minimum Wage
October 24, 1938	\$0.25
October 24, 1939	\$0.30
October 24, 1945	\$0.40
January 25, 1950	\$0.75
March 1, 1956	\$1.00
September 3, 1961	\$1.15
September 3, 1963	\$1.25
February 1, 1967	\$1.40
February 1, 1968	\$1.60
May 1, 1974	\$2.00
January 1, 1975	\$2.10
January 1, 1976	\$2.30
January 1, 1978	\$2.65
January 1, 1979	\$2.90
January 1, 1980	\$3.10
January 1, 1981	\$3.35
April 1, 1990	\$3.80
April 1, 1991	\$4.25
October 1, 1996	\$4.75
September 1, 1997	\$5.15
Passed May 24, 2007*	\$5.85
Summer 2008	\$6.55
Summer 2009	\$7.25

\*This increase will go into effect 60 days after the president signs the bill into law.

# OPEIU Members Elected County Commissioners

## VOTE Fund Makes the Difference!

By Carol Strachan

Since Eaton County, Michigan was first organized into a governmental unit 169 years ago, the 15 seats on the Board of Commissioners had been in Republican control. Generally, the elections were not even contested; however, 16 years ago the very first Democrat was elected in a district that included parts of Lansing, the state capital. He remained the only Democrat until 2004 when two more were elected, also in districts that include parts of Lansing.

In winter 2006, it became apparent no other Democrat was going to run for the county commissioner seat in my area, a district outside of Lansing but suburban in nature and rapidly growing. The seat was then held by a Republican incumbent with only two years experience. Insofar as the area was changing demographically and becoming more progressive, I felt strongly that citizens should have a choice when they went to the polls in November. Although I had been active in grassroots politics on the local level, I had never previously sought public office.

In May 2006, I filed the requisite forms to establish a candidate committee and I served as my own treasurer. Having been the Local 512 Secretary-Treasurer for 12 years, I was very familiar with not only bookkeeping and recordkeeping, but with timely filing of required governmental reports. This experience would serve me well throughout the campaign. (I also served as treasurer for three other county commissioner campaigns at the same time).

My long history with Local 512 immediately brought my candidacy to the radar screen of the Lansing labor community including the Greater Lansing Labor Council, of which Local 512 is a member organization. In June, I was interviewed by panels from UAW Region 1-C as well as the Michigan Education Association and I received their endorsements. Both these organizations were eager to see Democrats gain a foothold in Eaton County and both made contributions to my campaign.

It was becoming obvious, however, that

my personal exercise in democracy was going to be costly. While I had raised about \$1,500 by the end of July, it had already cost \$784 to have campaign literature designed and printed. I still needed yard signs and, with enough money, I hoped to do one mailing to likely voters in September and another just before the November election. In August, I applied for a contribution from the J.B. Moss Voice of the Electorate (VOTE), again, hoping to gather enough funds to keep my candidacy in front of voters in the district.

Also in August, with the help of my husband, John, a former Local 512 President, we began our door-to-door campaign. As a political unknown, we knew it would be an absolute necessity to meet face-to-face with as many voters as possible. Campaigning door-to-door turned out to be a fascinating experience, one that caused a certain amount of trepidation initially, but that surely made a difference in the end. It's an exhausting activity but by Election Day we had visited every single targeted household in the district, some 2,200 homes!

Before finishing my story, I would like to mention the assistance I received from the Michigan Democratic Party. Although the party didn't contribute to my campaign financially, I was given access to a database called the Voter Activation Network or "VAN," which the party had purchased. Using the VAN, I was able to identify likely voters, individuals who had voted in most of the last few elections. Conversely, I was able to identify registered voters who were unlikely to bother to vote, especially in an off-year election. This was critical to my campaign, as we didn't waste time knocking on doors of unlikely voters. It also made my use of campaign funds more efficient. I didn't have to spend money mailing campaign flyers to individuals who had shown no inclination to vote in this type of election. Without this resource, I never would have had sufficient money to run the kind of robust campaign I'd envisioned.

Much to my delight, my campaign received a check from OPEIU's J.B. Moss VOTE Fund in September. That contribution made it possible to carry out my cam-



**Local 512 Secretary-Treasurer Carol Strachan elected County Commissioner in Eaton County, Michigan.**

paign plan for a second mailing of flyers just before Election Day, as well as having yard signs designed and printed. During the course of going door-to-door, we had identified about 50 citizens who were willing to put one of my campaign signs in their yards, and about a month and a half before the election, we delivered all those signs. In green and white, they made quite an attractive statement! I know in my heart that those signs and the second mailing made a difference in the election. Likewise, I know that without the VOTE contribution to my campaign, the outcome would not have been the same!

On election night, we hosted many friends, family, supporters and other candidates to watch election television coverage. Some county commissioner winners were announced quite early that night, 10 p.m. or so. My race, however, continued to be reported as both candidates having 50 percent of the votes. This went on for the next several hours. About 1:30 a.m., my race was finally called and I had won by only 23 votes out of more than 3,200 cast! Every vote surely does count and the next chapter in my life was about to begin!

How much the contributions of labor, especially OPEIU, meant to my campaign for county commissioner cannot be overstated. It seems apparent the visibility of

*(Continued on next page)*

## OPEIU Members Elected County Commissioners

*(Continued from previous page)*

my candidacy through meeting voters door-to-door, yard signs and a mailing just before Election Day had a positive impact. Without those contributions, however, it seems just as likely there would have been a different outcome on Election Day.

My victory, though, was not the most remarkable thing that happened on November 7, 2006. As proof our county really is changing, seven other Democrats won their elections for county commissioner. For the first time in history, Democrats controlled a majority on the Eaton County Board of Commissioners! One of the other

new Democratic commissioners is Mike Hosey, also an OPEIU member, and also a candidate whose campaign received a contribution from VOTE. Because his employer forbade him from accepting a contribution from the UAW, which is another story, the contribution from VOTE was inordinately critical to his success. His campaign too had the necessary resources to purchase yard signs and complete a late mailing because of the VOTE contribution.

The VOTE Fund works! My story, and those of labor candidates throughout the country, emphasize the importance of supporting the OPEIU J.B. Moss VOTE Fund!



**Carol Strachan joins with OPEIU, Local 2002 (MAGE) member Michael Hosey as newly elected commissioners in Eaton County, Michigan.**

## J.B. Moss VOTE Fund Changes Outcome of Election

*By John Strachan*

For its entire existence, 169 years, Eaton County, Michigan was under Republican leadership. The Republicans had become so entrenched in county government that they believed they could never be beaten. During this time, the presence of the Democratic Party was almost unknown. The party was small and, although they did contest some elected positions, it held only a handful of elected seats.

Approximately three years ago, Carol Strachan, Secretary-Treasurer of Local 512, went online and found a Web site that allowed her to design a bumper sticker. When she was done she had a bumper sticker that read: YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY DEMOCRAT IN EATON COUNTY! The bumper sticker had a donkey on it and the address of a Web site where people could go to contact other Democrats. Bumper stickers were purchased and distributed to known Eaton County Democrats. As people saw the bumper sticker, the party began to grow and more people who were interested in working for the party became active.

Finally, in the 2006 elections, the Eaton County Democratic Party offered a stable of candidates who were organized and ready to launch vigorous campaigns. The state Democratic Party, however was not ready to offer much in the way of assistance. They reasoned that they only had so many resources and it would be unwise to waste

them in a county in which they could not win.

With their limited resources and only each other to rely upon for assistance, the situation looked bleak. The party wanted to run 13 candidates for the 15 county commissioner seats; however, there was no money or resources to launch serious campaigns. There was only one place to go in order to salvage the effort. The candidates turned to the people who know hard work and perseverance can beat all odds. They turned to the unions.

OPEIU gave VOTE money, the UAW gave PAC money, MEA (Teachers) gave money, and the Plumbers and Pipe Fitters gave money. Unions from all over the area saw the determined effort being mounted by the Eaton County Democrats and united to help the movement. Bolstered with financial support from the unions, the candidates ran aggressive and tireless campaigns.

Then, when the votes were counted on election evening, people could not believe their eyes. The impossible had happened! Carol Strachan had won in a very Republican area of the county by a mere 23 votes. She was joined by OPEIU, Local 2002 member Michael Hosey, who won in the MOST Republican area of the county. Carol and Mike were joined by six other Democratic candidates for county commissioner seats. That meant the Democrats had control of Eaton County Government by an



**Local 512 Executive Director and Vice President John Strachan appreciates VOTE Fund contributions.**

eight to seven majority. It was time for the Democrats to take over.

Almost six months after the election, people are still perplexed by what happened in Eaton County. No one saw the power change coming. Many still don't understand how it could have happened. But to those of us who worked on the campaigns, there is no doubt.

None of this would have been possible if it were not for the OPEIU members who donated small sums each and every payday to the VOTE fund. They made this possible. They provided the resource that allowed victory to transcend from being a dream and made it a reality. Those of us in Eaton County, Michigan, who worked in the movement thank you for your generosity and support.

## EMS Pilot Wins in Arbitration with CareFlite

An arbitrator has ruled in favor of OPEIU Local 108 in a case against CareFlite, ruling that the company must reinstate the union's shop steward with complete exoneration and 90 days back pay — while offering a stern rebuke to the company for firing the employee.

"The employer's actions were arbitrary, capricious, discriminatory, and unreasonable and constituted an abuse of management discretion warranting this arbitrator to substitute his judgment for that of the employer," wrote Charles B. Overstreet, the arbitrator in this case.

The steward was an EMS helicopter pilot with CareFlite from 1998 to June 6, 2006 when he was fired by the company. CareFlite claimed that the steward "had become confrontational and aggressive toward nurses and paramedics not in the pilot bargaining unit and over whom he had no supervisory authority," and that he "resisted urgings from co-workers and management that he moderate his behavior." The company alleged that the union steward had engaged in "three incidents of unprecedented misconduct," that included a major safety violation and a verbal confrontation with a CareFlite employee.

"The arbitrator saw right through CareFlite's false allegations," OPEIU Senior International Representative Paul Bohelski said. "This was an employee who had routinely received excel-

lent appraisals, so it's clear that CareFlite was retaliating against him due to his role as the union shop steward."

The arbitration award states that the steward was known for asserting the pilots' rights, which led directly to his being threatened by a company official that he could lose his job as a result. The arbitrator wrote that an email the company official sent to the steward saying that his "job may be at risk" if he continued "down this path," was indeed a threatening email and "on the basis of this evidence alone," would have meant a ruling in the union's favor.

"Let this be a lesson to employers who act capriciously and in a discriminatory manner when dealing with our union stewards and members," Bohelski said. "We're very pleased with the award and want to thank Local 108 counsel, Bill Lurye, who did a remarkable job in preparation and presentation of this difficult case."

In addition to being reinstated to his former job as a pilot at the same pay and seniority with 90 days of back pay, it was ruled that CareFlite must pay the pilot for any out-of-pocket medical losses due to not being covered by the company's health plan during the time he was out of work, and that his personnel records must be purged of all records related to his discharge.

Local 108 represents 24 EMS helicopter pilots at CareFlite, which serves the Dallas/ForthWorth Metroplex and surrounding communities.

## OPEIU Assists Those In Need

On March 1, 2007, a F3/4 tornado tore directly through the small southern town of Enterprise, Alabama, population 22,000 people. While tornadoes in the south are not particularly unusual, the size of this one compared to what you would expect in Oklahoma or Kansas.

After taking direct aim at Enterprise, this storm stayed on the ground for seven miles and was a half mile wide at times, said OPEIU Local 102 President Steven Rush. In the heart of town, the Enterprise High School took a direct hit with tremendous devastation to the school, personal property and the loss of the lives of eight students.

Local 102 is comprised of helicopter instructor pilots who fly out of Ft. Rucker, Alabama. Many of our members live in

Enterprise and their children attend the high school.

International President Michael Goodwin was very concerned when he heard that Enterprise had experienced a disaster of such magnitude and that so many OPEIU members had been affected. The International Union sent a check for \$10,000 to help those members who had sustained damage. Local 102 added \$3,000 to that amount and was able to distribute 26 checks of \$500 each to our members who experienced major damage. Senior International Representative Paul Bohelski was on hand to assist with the distribution of funds.

The members of Local 102 would like to once again thank the OPEIU for its generosity. This truly is what the union is all about, members helping members in a time of need.



(Front row) Pilots Randy Black, Keith Butler, Frank Butler, Jerry Elliot, Chuck Carr, Tracy Trosper, (back row) Local 102 President Steven Rush, Sam Alexander, Rick James, Rich Miller, Glenn Machen, Steve Byers, Senior International Representative Paul Bohelski and Steve Ferguson.

## Vice President Anita Roy Honored

Local 12 members paid tribute to Vice President Anita Roy at a retirement event held on April 26, 2007 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. As she was so well respected in the labor community, many labor leaders also attended the event to congratulate Roy on her retirement and to recognize her many years of service. International President Michael Goodwin presented Roy with a plaque on behalf of OPEIU thanking her for her many years of dedication and for making such a difference in the lives of OPEIU members. International Secretary-Treasurer Nancy Wohlforth was also on hand to honor Roy's many achievements.

Roy began her career in the labor movement in 1974 when she was hired to work at HERE, Local 665 and joined OPEIU Local 12. Over her 32 years with Local 12, Roy served as a Union Steward, Executive Board member, Trustee, and President before becoming the Business Manager in 1990. She became a Region VII Vice President in 1998. In the 1970s, Roy was a founding member and the first Secretary-Treasurer of the Twin Cities chapter of the

Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW). She also served on the Women's Advisory Committee for the Labor Education Service at the University of Minnesota.

Over the years, Roy's service and commitment to the OPEIU and the labor move-

ment has been immeasurable. Her tireless efforts have made a difference in the quality of life for working women and men everywhere. She will be missed, and the International Union wishes her the best in her retirement.



Ray Waldron, President of the Minnesota AFL-CIO; Alan Langhor, Federal Mediator; Anita Roy; Secretary-Treasurer Nancy Wohlforth; and President Michael Goodwin enjoy Roy's retirement event.

## A Lifetime of Dedication and Service

WHEREAS, Anita Roy has served the members of OPEIU, Local 12 in Minneapolis, Minnesota with distinction as Executive Board Member, Steward, Trustee, President, Business Manager, and

WHEREAS, her work in negotiating, organizing and servicing the members of Local 12 has improved the quality of life for thousands of working families in the greater Minneapolis, Minnesota area, and

WHEREAS, Anita Roy led the effort to protect the benefits of participants in the Local 12 Retirement Plan, which was faced with financial exigency, by facilitating a merger with the Local 153 Pension Plan, and

WHEREAS, she was one of the first of three women elected at the 1998 OPEIU convention to serve as a Diversity Vice President and a member of the International Union's Executive Board representing more than 100,000 office and professional office employees throughout the United States, and

WHEREAS, she has been re-elected as an OPEIU Vice President at the 2001 and 2004 conventions, and

WHEREAS, her contributions to the Board are invaluable

as she promotes progressive and forward-thinking ideas, helping to shape the policies of the International Union and its Local Unions for years to come.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the OPEIU officers, members and staff hereby express their sincere appreciation and heartfelt gratitude to Anita Roy for her lifetime of dedication and service to the cause of improving hours, wages, and working conditions of the American worker, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be presented to the 2007 OPEIU convention for affirmation and ratification.

Michael Goodwin  
President

Nancy Wohlforth  
Secretary-Treasurer

Dated: Minneapolis, Minnesota  
April 26, 2007



## Alliance Gains Momentum in Las Vegas

The Alliance program is gaining momentum in Las Vegas, as taxi and limousine drivers continue to sign up for the program's benefits available only to union members. The Industrial, Technical and Professional Employees Union (ITPE),

also known as OPEIU Local 4873, and the United Steelworkers (USW) formed the Alliance to provide benefits to drivers who work 12-hour shifts and six-day work weeks. T. Ruthie Jones, Vice President of ITPE and Organizer Tom Kruger have been working with ITPE drivers and Hussein Abdelgilil, President of USW, Local 711-A, who is currently on a leave of absence so he can serve as an Organizer for the Alliance, and Acting President John Goins have been working with USW drivers.

Bernie Hostein, Assistant to USW International President Leo Gerard and ITPE President John Conley have been very active in ensuring that the Alliance program is a huge success. Together, they approved the employment of Alliance Lead Organizer David Flores, Organizer Cesar Mendia, Membership Benefits Coordinator Christina Lawes and Organizer Hussein Abdelgilil, as well as the opening of the Alliance office on S. Highland Drive in Las Vegas. Both unions have provided necessary funding for the membership benefits, office and staff.

The Alliance program currently has well over 2,000 members and is on its way to achieving its goal of 3,000 members! The Alliance provides drivers who join with a death benefit, accidental death and dismemberment benefits, a disability benefit, legal representation before the Taxi Authority, a Perks national discount card, a Careington health service card, MyMedicalRecords.com (an online storage for medical and personal health records), scholarships, free annual towing/service call, AFL-CIO "Union Plus" benefit program and much more.



ITPE and Alliance staff members have been working diligently to spread the word about the program to all drivers in Las Vegas. Pictured left to right are T. Ruthie Jones, Vice President, ITPE; David Flores, Lead Organizer, Alliance; Christina Lawes, Membership Benefits Coordinator, Alliance; Hussein Abdelgilil, Organizer, Alliance; and Cesar Mendia, Organizer, Alliance.

## Local 2 Rallies for Justice at Smithfield



Two members of Local 2, Washington, D.C., joined a rally at non-union Harris Teeter in Arlington, Virginia as part of UFCW's national campaign, "Justice at Smithfield." Approximately 75 people rallied, including members of the Northern Virginia Labor Council, AFL-CIO, nine other unions, as well as student, civic and religious leaders and elected officials. Pictured are Local 2 members (left to right) Eric Starin and Joyce Putnam (who is a trustee for the Northern Virginia Central Labor Council), and Eric's son, Daniel.

More than 5,500 workers at Smithfield's Tar Heel, North Carolina plant face poverty wages, brutal conditions and crippling injuries every day. The world's largest hog processing plant, Smithfield Packing has been cited by Human Rights Watch for violating international human rights standards, and has created an environment of intimidation, racial tension, and sometimes violence for workers who want a voice on the job.

### WHITE COLLAR

Official Organ of  
OFFICE and PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES  
INTERNATIONAL UNION  
affiliated with the AFL-CIO, CLC  
<http://www.opeiui.org>

MICHAEL GOODWIN  
President

NANCY WOHLFORTH  
Secretary-Treasurer



CALM

WHITE COLLAR (ISSN 0043-4876) is published quarterly by Office and Professional Employees International Union, 1660 L St., N.W., Suite 801, Washington, D.C. 20036. Periodical postage paid at Washington, D.C. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Office and Professional Employees International Union, 1660 L St., N.W., Suite 801, Washington, D.C. 20036.

Reproduction by the Labor Press of any or all material herein contained is not only permitted, but wholly desirable in the interest of workers' education.

Subscription Price \$1 a Year

## Report of the Committee on Mergers and Consolidation

In preparation for the triennial convention, members of the Merger and Consolidation committee met on April 16 in Washington, D.C. to discuss and prepare recommended amendments to the OPEIU Constitution regarding Local Union membership levels.

The committee is comprised of Local 153 Secretary-Treasurer and Region II Vice President Richard Lanigan (Chair), Region VII Vice President Aaron Sanders, Region VI Vice President Judith Zenk, Region III Vice President Phillip Pope and was assisted by Director of Organization and Field Services Kevin Kistler and Secretary-Treasurer Nancy Wohlforth.

### The report reads as follows:

“Throughout the years, OPEIU has set for itself and its Local Unions the goals of effective representation, political activity and organizing—goals which all OPEIU Local Unions should strive for. After many years of discussion, deliberations and analysis by OPEIU Executive Board committees, convention committees and the Executive Board itself, OPEIU has concluded that in order for Local Unions to organize, raise political action monies and represent their members effectively, Local Unions need to be self-sufficient to the point that they can hire staff, maintain an office, retain legal counsel and take other measures in the best interests of the membership.

OPEIU convention committees have concluded that in order for a Local Union to be self-sufficient, a certain membership level was needed. Based on the average Local Union dues rate and Local Union expenses, it has been determined that in order to support a full-time field representative, a Local Union would need approximately 500 members. Thus, the goal of 500 members in a Local Union was established. Initially this goal was to be reached by organizing.

In order to support this goal, organizing incentives were established, the Henderson B. Douglas Award was expanded, additional monies were made available to train Local Union voluntary and staff organizers and the organizing incentive subsidy program was developed.

While Local Unions have been encouraged to organize, OPEIU suggested to those Local Unions that didn’t or couldn’t organize to consider establishing a council and/or consider merging with a sister Local Union in order to gain the self-sufficiency described above. OPEIU has encouraged mergers of Local Unions where self-sufficiency would be the outcome of such action.

Following the 1998 OPEIU Convention, a Merger and Consolidation committee was established to re-examine these issues. In 1999, the OPEIU Executive Board adopted a Uniform Procedure for Merger where Local Unions were considering the possibility of merger. The delegates to the 2004 OPEIU Convention authorized the OPEIU President to appoint a Merger and Consolidation committee to continue to examine the issue.

The committee was appointed in January, 2005.

The committee met several times and examined the size, geography and proximity of many Local Unions to neighboring Local Unions as well as the industries the Local Union members were employed in. After long deliberation, the committee determined that rather than establishing the 500 member minimum as a constitutional requirement, it would recommend certain amendments to the OPEIU Constitution that would further the convention mandate, leaving the numerical thresholds for future consideration.

The committee reviewed those constitutional provisions that govern the issuance of charters and the minimum number of members for a Local Union. Based on this review, the committee recommends amendments to the OPEIU Constitution as follows:

First — ARTICLE XIX, SECTION 1, which governs the number of members necessary for the issuance of a Charter, be amended from the current language providing for fifty (50) members to one hundred (100) members. The committee concluded that this change is consistent with current practice.

Second — Currently, ARTICLE XIX, SECTION 2 provides that no Local Union can be dissolved while there are seven (7) dues-paying members in the Local Union. The committee recommends that the number of members specified in this provision be increased to read “No Local Union can be dissolved while there are fifty (50) dues paying members there-in who desire to continue its existence”...

With respect to ARTICLE XIX, SECTION 1, the committee recognized that there may be rare occasions where organizing and/or affiliation opportunities are presented to the OPEIU where the President of OPEIU should be given the discretion to determine whether a charter may be issued to a Local Union having less than one hundred (100) members, where in his or her judgment, the best interest of the OPEIU membership is served.

With respect to ARTICLE XIX, SECTION 2, the committee recommends that the question of whether or not a Local Union having less than fifty (50) members should be dissolved, continues to be a determination of the OPEIU Executive Board.

The committee reviewed past OPEIU Policy Statements regarding merger, and concluded that the OPEIU should continue to encourage Local Unions to merge where such mergers would result in a Local Union becoming self-sufficient, provide better service to the members, enhance future organizing possibilities and generally further the interests of the OPEIU.

Finally, the committee recommends that the OPEIU policy on Local Union mergers be restated.

The committee makes no additional recommendations.”

## OPEIU Steward Update – Subscribe Today!

**B**eing a shop steward is a difficult job. It means keeping in touch with your members, watching your contract, keeping up on global trends in the economy and how they can affect your members, as well as a host of other issues.

To help, the OPEIU prepares the *OPEIU Steward Update*, a bi-monthly publication for the information and education of OPEIU’s dedicated stewards. It is full of valuable information that every steward should have. If you aren’t already receiving the *OPEIU Steward Update*, subscribe today. Simply fill out and return this coupon to: OPEIU Steward Update Subscriptions, Attention: Secretary-Treasurer Nancy Wohlforth, 1660 L Street, N.W., Suite 801, Washington, D.C. 20036, or via fax at (202) 347-0649.



**Please sign me up for a complimentary subscription of *OPEIU Steward Update*!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Local Union Number \_\_\_\_\_ Employer \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

## Union Hypnotists? Yes, It's True!

**W**hat if someone told you that you can lose weight, stop smoking, eliminate anxieties, and maintain a better quality of life?

It's not done with a new "wonder pill." Actually, these positive results can be accomplished with the use of hypnosis, according to Dr. Dwight F. Damon, President of the National Federation of Hypnotists, OPEIU Local 104, which is affiliated with the National Guild of Hypnotists, the oldest organization of its kind in the field of hypnosis.

As President of both organizations, Dr. Damon has only high praise for their union affiliation with OPEIU. "Since we received our union charter in 1994, we have had to ask for the assistance of OPEIU and also state AFL-CIO federations in our legislative endeavors to become a separate and distinct profession. When we have been faced with restrictive legislation that favored other professions' attempts at putting our members out of business, we have been able to count on the union's strength and experience to help us in our battles — and they have always come through for us.

"This relationship has also allowed many of our consulting hypnotists to provide

group sessions in smoking cessation, stress and weight management for union members as part of Local Union well-being programs," Dr. Damon continued. "Although all Guild members are not yet union members, we encourage readers to always ask when looking for a well-qualified consulting hypnotist."

Has the day finally arrived for hypnosis in the emergency room, the birthing rooms and the oncology wing of a hospital? It is already a reality, and although it's not in every hospital, it is used often enough to verify its usefulness, according to Dr. Damon. Actually, the practice of hypnosis has been officially sanctioned by the American Medical Association since 1958. The National Guild of Hypnotists was founded in 1951, and is incorporated as a non-profit organization serving 10,000 members in 65 countries around the world.

Certified consulting hypnotists are trained with the Guild core-curriculum by certified instructors across the United States and in numerous other countries. Continuing education workshops, an annual convention, mid-year conference, and professional publications help members attain required continuing education



**Dr. Dwight F. Damon, President of the National Federation of Hypnotists, OPEIU Local 104.**

credits, while keeping them informed as to advancements in the field.

With a goal of informing the general public about hypnosis, NGH maintains a Web site at [www.ngh.net](http://www.ngh.net), publishes a consumer-oriented magazine, *Hypnosis Today*, and has a client referral line at 603-429-9438.

### OPEIU Attends Maritime Trades Board Meeting



International President Michael Goodwin attends the Maritime Trades Department (MTD) executive board meeting on March 1-2, 2007 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Pictured with him is MTD President Michael Sacco and Region II Vice President Richard Lanigan.

### Local 204 Negotiates Pay Increases with Northrop



A negotiating committee comprised of (left to right) Region III Vice President Green P. Lewis, Lisa Horsley, LaShunda Deen, Melton Clark and Local 204 Secretary-Treasurer Lula Stewart has successfully negotiated pay increases with Northrop Grumann Ship Systems. The percentage rate of increase ranges from 14.8 percent to 48 percent, due to reclassification of some of the positions. Congratulations to Local 204!

## Local 35 Members Hold Strong in Fight Against Miller Brewing

Local 35 continues its informational picketing and public awareness campaign against Miller Brewing Co. in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and has filed age and gender discrimination complaints against the company.

Local 35 clerical staff and shipping and receiving employees recently rejected the company's final contract offer that demanded a pension freeze and cutbacks in health care benefits. On March 8, the union filed age and gender discrimination complaints with the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Equal Rights Division of the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, alleging that the specific pension terms in Miller's contract offer to its primarily late-middle-aged female members are substantively different and inferior to those in contract offers made to the other six unions at

the brewery with predominantly male employees.

"For Wisconsin, the key to competitiveness is our ability to attract and retain a talented workforce," commented Lt. Governor Barbara Lawton about the suit. "The specter of these complaints against Miller — that women doing work traditionally done by women will categorically receive inferior compensation — colors how our state is perceived to value the contributions women make here. Wisconsin cannot afford the status quo when it comes to women... Miller's success would be impossible without the collective thousands of years of service of the members of Local 35. I encourage leaders at Miller to seek a resolution to contract negotiations with Local 35 that will boost the company's prospects and send a strong signal that Wisconsin is a great

place for women to work."

Local 35 represents approximately 120 employees at the Miller corporate offices. Workers have been without a contract since April 29, 2006.

"The company is clearly singling out Local 35 members because they are women and because of their age," Local 35 Business Manager Judy Burnick said. "We firmly believe it is discriminatory. And we firmly believe it is illegal. The company's demand is like asking our members to throw away two or more decades of dedicated and dependable labor. To do this when many of our members are nearing retirement age is particularly cruel."

As this issue of *White Collar* went to press, Local 35 has reported a tentative agreement with the company. The terms of the agreement will be submitted to the membership for ratification.



Miller Brewing employees, joined by ITPE and USW members and Alliance employees, demonstrate in Las Vegas, Nevada as part of a campaign against the company for its alleged age and discrimination practices.

## Secretary-Treasurer Wohlforth Selected 2007 Alice B. Grant Labor Leader in Residence



International Secretary-Treasurer Nancy Wohlforth has been chosen as the 2007 Alice B. Grant Labor Leader in Residence at Cornell's School of Industrial and Labor Relations (ILR). The award celebrates the normally unsung praises of office and administrative workers at the prestigious labor school. ILR's Dean, Harry C. Katz, introduces Wohlforth to give the keynote address to students at their annual Union Days program. This year's topic was Search for Equality: Gender and the Labor Movement.

## Local 5 Organizes New Unit

In January 2007, Local 5 in Denver, Colorado was voluntarily recognized by Fringe Benefit Services, Inc. (FBS) as the bargaining representative for their clerical employees. Negotiations began in January and concluded with a collective bargaining agreement that was ratified unanimously by the 17 bargaining unit members.

In Colorado, not a Right to Work state, we have what is called the "Colorado Labor Peace Act," which says that after you have

organized a unit, you must hold a second election where the bargaining unit votes to have an all union office (a union security clause). This election must be decided by a majority of 75 percent plus 1 in favor of the union to be able to have a union security clause.

The Colorado Department of Labor held a Colorado Labor Peace Act election on April 6. Local 5 is happy to report that the election was decided in favor of the union

by 100 percent of the vote. Since the time we negotiated the contract, we have gained two additional members in the unit and the employer is planning to hire another four in the upcoming months. Local 5 says the organizing drive was helped in large part by union brothers from Plumbers Local 3 and Pipefitters Local 208 in Denver who have their health and pension funds handled by FBS, Inc. This is proof that solidarity works!



The negotiating committee (left to right), Nikki Schutt, Debbie Bentley and Business Representative Julie Spears.



The entire bargaining unit (back row or standing) Nikki Schutt, Maria Ayala, Pamela Townsend, Becky Harding, Carol Delarber, Pamela Walker, Charlotte Hollands, Betty Bunting, Pam Johnson and Mickey Palmore; (front row or sitting) Lyndsey Schutt, Rebecca Morris, Thelma Riedel, Business Representative Julie Spears, Dana Weiss, Lori Trujillo, Diana Paine, Jean Vega and Debbie Bentley.

## Local 3 Shop Stewards Shine!



International President Michael Goodwin (right) is pictured with two outstanding Local 3 shop stewards at Zenith, Carlos Medal and Esther Lim. Their dedication to the members at Zenith, and the extra mile they go each day to best represent their fellow members, is to be applauded! OPEIU salutes them and all our hardworking shop stewards!

## McDonald's in China Agrees to Unionize!

**A**s reported by *The New York Times*, a year after Wal-Mart unionized all of its stores in China under pressure from the government, McDonald's is cooperating with China's largest state-controlled union to allow the formation of more unions in its 705 outlets in the country.

"The announcement comes nearly two weeks after a state-controlled newspaper in Guangdong Province [one of the country's wealthiest regions] reported that some McDonald's, KFC and Pizza Hut restaurants in Guangdong were violating the law by paying employees less than minimum wages and denying some workers full-time benefits," said the paper.

McDonald's officials said they obey the law, but are now investigating those allegations, and a source said that the company has already begun working with labor organizers

and "had even circulated information within some of its Chinese stores about unions.

"A McDonald's spokesman said that the company already had unions in some of its Chinese stores and that even before the pay complaints arose, the company had been cooperating with the All-China Federation of Trade Unions in Guangzhou, the capital of Guangdong Province," *The Times* said.

The paper went on to report that the "effort to form unions in multinational corporations in China is one of the latest developments in a country where economic growth is strong but workers are beginning to complain more publicly about unfair labor practices.

"While unions have been around here for a long time, mostly in state-owned companies, experts say that they have traditionally been weak in China. In many cases, they work in tandem with management, par-

ticularly in state-run companies. They have not been known to challenge management or to bargain for higher pay. More often than not, experts say, the unions have been used by management to coordinate employee activities. But recently, union leaders have promised to fight for workers. And last year, the country's biggest union won a significant victory by forcing Wal-Mart to allow unions in all 62 of its stores in China.

"Now the All-China Federation of Trade Unions says its goal by the end of this year is to have unions active in 70 percent of the foreign-invested companies operating here," *The Times* continued.

One indication of the union's growing power in China is its role in helping prepare a new draft labor law, which is expected to pass this year. The labor law could give unions greater power.

## St. Vincent Nurses Vote Yes for Their Union!

(Continued from page 3)

overturned the NLRB regional ruling and ordered that a decertification election be

held. The NLRB and the hospital required that the election take place over a three-day, three-session per day period.

"There was no current movement to oust the union," Cheryl Coleman, Chief Steward/Executive Board Member said. "RNs were happy that they worked under the protection of a union contract. The hospital administration bragged in its anti-union materials that improvements had been made over the last ten years, however, they failed to mention that the changes were made because the RNs were represented and protected by a union contract."

Shelia Peacock added, "The half-truths and outright lies from the hospital's anti-union campaign nudged many RNs who were undecided straight to the polls with a union 'yes' vote."

The NFC said in a television interview that the OPEIU did not fulfill its promises, claiming there was no improvement in wages or working conditions. "Prior to the union contract, many nurses received only six and eight cent increases per hour, but after the contract, all the RNs received fair increases — at the very least an across the board COLA increase each year," Local 22 President Paige Yates said. "A huge concern of the RNs is pulling from one unit to another. The contract protects the RNs by defining how often and where a nurse can be assigned and how often and in what order the assignments are cancelled."

## OPEIU Travels the World!



Ron Hudson, a longtime OPEIU Local 2 shop steward at the Teamsters headquarters in Washington, D.C., recently traveled to Paris and took the opportunity to show the world the OPEIU name! Hudson wore his OPEIU t-shirt as he visited the beautiful and majestic Paris Opera House.

## Lobbyist Corner

# Now Is The Time To Lobby Your Member Of Congress

**Submitted by OPEIU Lobbyist Robert McGlotten of McGlotten & Jarvis**

The House of Representatives has passed HR-800, the “Employee Free Choice Act” (EFCA) by a vote of 241-185. Business organizations and conservative groups have made the defeat of this legislation their most pressing issue. The Senate bill, S.1041, would help to stamp out employer harassment that hundreds of workers encounter every day when trying to join a union. S.1041 has 47 co-sponsors and needs to move to the president’s desk.

In other moves, both the House and Senate have passed minimum wage bills. It has been ten long years since minimum wage workers have received an increase.

The House and Senate have also passed bills to expand stem cell research, which also needs to move to President Bush’s desk. Cutting interest rates on student loans, funding of Veterans Health Benefits and a Child Health program, all need to be acted on now.

Representative Patrick Kennedy (D-RI) has introduced HR.1424, the Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Act of 2007, which has 263 co-sponsors in the House. This bill needs your support to be scheduled for a floor vote in the House and Senate.

American workers are the most productive workers in the world, yet today they face stagnating wages and a rising cost of living. For workers to maintain their living standard, they must work longer hours or seek other employment at a second job. Today this nation is growing apart — economically, politically and socially.

OPEIU and other AFL-CIO union members worked diligently to elect a democratic House and Senate, but our job does not end with last year’s election. In fact, it has just begun.

Here are some other issues that need immediate attention:

- Ending subsidies for “Big Oil” in renewable energy
- Affordable Health Care
- Secure Retirement Protections
- Investment in American Jobs
- Better Schools and Education Programs
- Immigration Reform
- Trade Laws that Provide Corporate Accountability
- Health Care Antitrust Protections

## **Take Action — Your Involvement is More Important Than Ever!**

Contact your local representatives. Every letter counts. Every phone call can make a difference. If you prefer to make written contact, OPEIU advises you to either mail or e-mail all correspondence.

If you don’t know who your House representative is, the Clerk of the House maintains addresses and phone numbers of all members and committees: Clerk of the House, U.S. Capitol, Room H154, Washington, D.C. 20515; phone (202) 225-7000; hours 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday. The following websites also contain links to congressional directories: <http://www.house.gov/writerep> and <http://www.senate.gov>.

Please direct your questions about communication with your Senators to the specific office(s) in question, using the following format: Office of Senator (Name), United States Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510. You may also phone the U.S. Capitol’s switchboard at (202) 224-3121. An operator will connect you directly with the House or Senate office you request.

You can also access this information at your local library, or call the International Union at 212-675-3210 for a booklet listing of congressional representatives.

**Your action is needed now. Do your part to help yourself and your family. Start writing and calling today!**





## WASHINGTON WINDOW

### Why the Radical Right is Really Scared

In the middle of yet another tirade against workers' rights, Bush regime Labor Secretary Elaine Chao let slip why the radical right is really scared.

As she went on and on and on about the "Employee Free Choice Act" (EFCA) at a press conference in Arizona, one reporter asked her how often unions win in card-check recognition campaigns.

Her answer: 80 percent.

More than any public opinion poll,

that proves what we in the union movement have said all along: Given the choice, free of employer threats, intimidation, illegal firings, coercion, spying and promises to close and move plants to developing nations, workers choose unions.

But when workers don't get that freedom to choose, through card-check, the win rate drops to just over half – and the number of elections goes way down.

So as you campaign for EFCA and for rights on the job, make that point: All we want is the freedom to choose, free of brow-beating, free of firings, free of management goons and thuggery. And we can indicate whether we want to join unions by the simple act of signing, or not signing, a card.

And, remember, when we get that freedom, four-fifths of the time, unions and workers win. Even Elaine Chao said so!

## Work and Health

### The New HPV Vaccine.....

### A Great Advance, But Also A Great Dilemma

**Submitted by Jeffrey S. Freed, M.D.**

**Associate Professor of Surgery, The Mount Sinai School of Medicine, NYC**

**OPEIU Local 153 Health Fund Medical Director**

Human papillomavirus (HPV) infection is estimated to be the most common sexually transmitted infection. HPV is common among females in the United States. Data indicates that the incidence of HPV infection is higher than previously thought and may present health risk to those who carry the virus. Although carrying the virus may cause absolutely no harm except the possibility of transmission to an intimate partner, different strains of the virus can cause different conditions like genital warts and even cervical or anal cancer. Women between the ages of 20 and 40 years are the group with the highest likelihood of contracting, carrying and transmitting the virus.

The most serious adverse health problem that can occur as a result of contracting the virus is cancer of the cervix that is a part of the uterus (womb). Approximately 10,000

women will develop this condition this year. Until now, the only way to prevent the transmission of the HPV virus was by abstinence (avoiding intimate contact completely) or by the practice of safe sex (using condoms). However, there is new hope for the future.

Recently, vaccines against the most common types of the HPV virus that cause about 70 percent of all cancers of the cervix have been developed. Research has shown that these HPV vaccines prevent infections from these cancer-causing HPV viruses and even prevent the early changes in the cells of the cervix that cause an abnormal PAP smear.

Research has also shown that these vaccines are safe. At present, the recommendation is that the vaccine be given to young girls ages 12 to 16, before they have had a chance to contract the virus by sexual contact. There is also a less strong recommendation for women age 17-26 to receive

the vaccine. Both groups require 3 doses of the vaccine. It is thought that once sexual activity has begun, the vaccine may not work as well in preventing the virus from being spread. Of note is the fact that at present there is no indication for males to receive the vaccine.

It is highly advised that if you are in one of the recommended groups, have a loved one who is, or have any reason to believe you are a candidate to receive the vaccine, you should speak with your primary care doctor or gynecologist as soon as possible. You and/or your loved one may or may not be a candidate to receive the vaccine, but the information you obtain will be helpful to you, and may even potentially save your life.

*Jeffrey S. Freed, M.D., P.C. specializes in general surgery/proctology. He can be reached via email at jsfmd@aol.com.*

# SUMMER FUN



Summer is more enjoyable with Union Plus Entertainment Discounts because you can afford it.

You deserve a break - both from work and high entertainment costs. Union members can use Union Plus Entertainment Discounts - including movie ticket, video and theme park discounts to relax and enjoy the summer.

## Theme Park Discounts

**Savings up to \$15 per ticket** at theme parks across the country - including Adventure Island, Busch Gardens, Hershey Park, Paramount's Great America, SeaWorld, Six Flags and Universal Studio\*

(\*Disney World is not offering discounts at this time. Disneyland discounts are available.)

## DVD Rentals

Get discount DVD rentals at **Blockbuster** and **Hollywood Video** when you buy movie rental coupons in advance.



## Major League Baseball

Save from \$3.75 to \$16 a ticket when you see your favorite team. Seats are limited.



## Movie Theaters

**Save up to 40% at national chains** for those big summer blockbuster movies (most of which are made with union talent and technicians). You must buy a minimum of six to eight tickets in advance with each order.



Order tickets online at [www.UnionPlus.org/Entertainment](http://www.UnionPlus.org/Entertainment) or call **1-800-565-3712**, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. EST. and reference member ID number: **744387769**. Also, learn more about Advantage points and start earning points toward free entertainment.

Start planning your fun today! Visit:

[www.UnionPlus.org/Entertainment](http://www.UnionPlus.org/Entertainment)



SUMMSAV-FLY 05/07

## Special Supplement

# Celebrating Six Decades of Solidarity



Howard Coughlin (second from left, standing) and George Meany (third from left, seated).

**W**e are nurses, engineers, computer programmers, secretaries, librarians, accountants and clerks. We work in universities, hospitals, offices, insurance companies, shipping firms, county and city government offices, manufacturing, on the land, air and sea. We are healthcare professionals, teachers, podiatrists, hypnotists, pharmacists, helicopter pilots, clinical social workers and many others. We are members of the Office and Professional Employees International Union.

Sixty-two years ago we received our charter as the union for white-collar workers from the American Federation of Labor.

Through the years we have repeatedly demonstrated to clerical, professional and technical employees a commitment to their needs and the advantages of being represented by such a vital, strong and democratic union.

Through OPEIU, we have struggled in the streets, the boardrooms, the halls of Congress, wherever there was a need to represent working people, and especially, OPEIU members. Sisters and brothers have united and stood shoulder-to-shoulder to right injustice, discrimination and greed.

Just a few of our struggles are depicted here in the following calendar, as well as a few of the brave women and men who have led the way.

We are the Office and Professional Employees International Union. We're strong and we're proud!

## Special Supplement

# Who's Who in OPEIU

## Office of the President

All research, education, communication, organizing and bargaining, legal and constitutional analysis work takes place in the New York office of the President. It's also where all final decisions are made about strikes, policy setting, legislation, political candidates, relations with other unions, and much, much more.

### Office of the President – Administrative Staff

The administrative staff in the office of the President makes sure that everything runs smoothly, helps answer member inquiries, assists in research, organizes and maintains records and much more.



**MaryAnn Bucalo**

*Assistant to the President*

Date of Hire – September 7, 2004



**Sandra Jorge**

*Administrative Assistant*

Date of Hire – March 2, 2004



**Judith Kauffman**

*Administrative Assistant*

Date of Hire – August 16, 2004



**Colleen Pedersen**

*Administrative Assistant*

Date of Hire – March 2, 1994



**Victoria Tirado-Roman**

*Administrative Assistant*

Date of Hire – October 3, 1980



**Kevin Kistler**  
Director of Organization  
and Field Services

**K**evin Kistler, the former Pennsylvania state director of the AFL-CIO, is OPEIU's Director of Organization and Field Services, a position he has held since 1998. This position enables the International to increase supervision of field representatives and communication with local unions.

Kistler brings more than 30 years of full-time union and political experience to the International. Prior to his position with the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO, Kistler served as a senior staff member at the AFL-CIO headquarters in Washington, D.C., supervising servicing and organizing activities.

Kistler began his union career in 1967 when he joined the Seafarers International Union while working in the engine department of a freighter. He later became a member of the Service Employees Organizing Committee while serving as a Washington police officer.

In 1973, Kistler was appointed a representative of the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees International, where he was actively involved in organizing, bargaining and strike coordination. Two years later, he joined the AFL-CIO as a field representative, coordinating political and legislative activities.



**Melvin Schwarzwald**  
General Counsel

Schwarzwald specializes in the representation of international and local labor unions that serve employees in both the public and private sectors. He also specializes in the representation of pension and health and welfare funds administered jointly by labor and management trustees or sponsored by unions.

Since 1995, Schwarzwald has been General Counsel of the OPEIU. He is also a member of the Lawyers Advisory Panel of the AFL-CIO, which meets monthly to advise the AFL-CIO General Counsel on strategy in legal matters. Schwarzwald also served on the Board of Directors of the Lawyers Coordinating Committee of the AFL-CIO, which is responsible for educational and communications services among

labor union lawyers across the country. Schwarzwald and his firm also represent the Cleveland AFL-CIO Federation of Labor.

Schwarzwald has also made presentations at national, regional and local seminars on labor law issues. Many of his papers have been published by the AFL-CIO, labor unions, bar associations and other groups sponsoring these seminars.

Since 1983, Schwarzwald has been listed for his representation of labor unions and individuals in employment matters in all editions of *Best Lawyers in America*. In addition to being admitted to practice before all Ohio courts, Schwarzwald is admitted to practice before numerous federal courts, including the United States Supreme Court.

**M**elvin Schwarzwald is a Principal and the President of Schwarzwald & McNair, a Legal Professional



**Robert McGlotten**  
Lobbyist

President Lane Kirkland. As Director, he oversaw an eight member staff of professional legislative representatives presenting the views of American labor to the U.S. Congress. He served that same department as Assistant Director from 1980 to 1986 and as an AFL-CIO legislative representative from 1974 to 1980.

In 1967, McGlotten joined the AFL-CIO Department of Civil Rights and went on to serve the federation in a variety of positions. He also was assigned to serve in the U.S. Department of Labor as Special Assistant to Secretary of Labor Peter J. Brennan in early 1973.

From June 1970 to March 1972, McGlotten was Executive Director of the Human Resources Department Institute, AFL-CIO. In that position he directed a field staff of AFL-CIO employment and training specialists in 50 cities and 30 states

seeking to increase union involvement in such programs. From April 1967 to June 1970, working with the AFL-CIO Civil Rights Department, McGlotten negotiated Apprenticeship Outreach contracts with various community organizations, Building Trades Councils and the Labor Department in which 6,500 minority workers were brought into apprenticeship programs of the building and construction trades unions.

McGlotten is a member and former staff representative for the Transport Workers Union. His tenure in the labor movement has included assignments with the American Federation of Teachers and the United Steelworkers of America. He attended the University of Pennsylvania and St. Joseph's College for Industrial and Labor Management. He served in the U.S. Army and is married to the former Cheryl Goode.

**R**obert McGlotten of McGlotten and Jarvis serves as a consultant and lobbyist for the International Union. McGlotten was appointed AFL-CIO Legislative Director in 1986 by then-

# Office of the Secretary-Treasurer

The Office of the Secretary-Treasurer administers all International Union accounts, financial reporting requirements for the International and Local Unions, the pension and welfare program for the union, the strike benefit and defense fund, the union's scholarship programs, relief funds (for a total of 15

funds), all detailed records management for the International Union, the J.B. Moss Voice of the Electorate (VOTE) Fund, the union's triennial convention and many more duties.

The Secretary-Treasurer's office prepares detailed quarterly and annual cash receipts and disbursements reports, which

are submitted to the principal Officers of all Local Unions and the International Union Officers. In addition, our Executive Board is given comprehensive financial reports for the period between each meeting. Our International Union uses conventional and widely accepted accounting practices.



**Michelle Campbell** – *Per Capita Tax Audit Transaction Clerk*  
Date of Hire – March 12, 2001



**Juliet Casey** – *Assistant to the Secretary-Treasurer*  
Date of Hire – January 17, 1983



**Demaris Ghilazghi** - *C.G.A. (Certified General Accountant) Pension Analyst; Senior Benefits Coordinator*  
Date of Hire – November 16, 1998



**William Hinnant** – *Inventory Control Clerk*  
Date of Hire – September 4, 2001



**Patricia Mercer** – *Accounts Payable Clerk*  
Date of Hire – June 1, 2004



**Nicole Oliver** – *Voice of the Electorate Clerk; Insurance Clerk*  
Date of Hire - July 17, 2006



**Tina Roberson** – *Senior Bookkeeper*  
Date of Hire – March 9, 1988



**Shanda Van Allen** – *Office Administrator*  
Date of Hire – October 10, 2001

# ITPE

## OPEIU Local 4873



**John F. Conley**  
**ITPE National President and**  
**OPEIU Region III Vice President**

**J**ohn Conley's interest in labor relations began in 1948 when he joined the National Maritime Union. He began by serving as a delegate (shop steward) on the majority of the vessels he sailed on, which took him all over the world for the next 20 years. In 1968, he was appointed to a dispatcher's position at the NMU office in the Port of Boston and later that year Conley was transferred to the NMU's office in the Port of Seattle, Washington as the Union's Patrolman (representative). In 1973, he became involved with the NMU's shoreside division – Industrial, Technical and Professional Employees Union (ITPE). His first assignment with ITPE was the organizing of 300 food service workers at Fort Lewis, Washington.

In 1978, he was transferred to Savannah, Georgia as the NMU Port Agent. Conley was assigned as the Area II Coordinator for ITPE contract sites in the Southeastern section of the United States. In 1988, the NMU merged with another union — Marine Engineers Beneficial Association (MEBA).

In 1991, a referendum was approved restructuring the ITPE, after which it became a separate division within MEBA and elected its own officers. Conley was elected as the Chair of the ITPE Division. In 1993, the ITPE became fully autonomous, adopted its own constitution and changed the officer's titles. Conley has held the highest office in ITPE since 1991, having been re-elected each three years for a total of 14 years.

In June 2001, the ITPE disaffiliated with MEBA and on July 1, 2001 affiliated with OPEIU. ITPE is now OPEIU Local 4873. In addition to being President of the Local, Conley serves as co-chair on three of the ITPE benefit funds.

In March of 2006, the ITPE, OPEIU Local 4873 held its Convention. At that time, the ITPE restructured its elected officers to: President, Secretary-Treasurer and Vice President/Organizing Director. Effective January 1, 2007, Conley was re-elected to another term as President of ITPE, OPEIU Local 4873.

# Members of the OPEIU Executive Board

## Vice Presidents



**Walter Allen Jr.**  
Region V

**W**alter Allen Jr. is an International Vice President from Region V in California. He served as Business Manager of Local 6 in Boston, Massachusetts until taking on the Trusteeship in Local 30 in Southern California.

Allen has been active in the labor movement since 1984, serving on numerous boards and councils including Vice President of the Massachusetts AFL-CIO, President of the Plymouth-Bristol Central Labor Council, board member at the Old Colony United Way, The Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, the University of Massachusetts Labor Education Center, the Martin Institute for Law and Justice at Stonehill College, the Labor Relations Institute at Quincy College, and the Boston Labor Guild.

In 2001, Allen was assigned to serve as International Union Trustee to oversee the reorganization of Local 30. Following the successful recovery of that union he was elected Executive Director/Chief Financial Officer of OPEIU, Local 30 in July 2002.

Presently, Allen is participating in the labor community on behalf of OPEIU and Local 30 in Southern California. He was elected to the Executive Board of the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council

where he developed and teaches that Council's first ever shop steward training program. He also sits on the Local 30/357 Trust Funds and is a member of the National Labor Management Partnership Committee for Kaiser Permanente unions. Walter is also a longtime member of the Coalition of Labor Union Women and Pride at Work.



**Dan Dyer**  
Region II

**A**fter receiving his B.A. in Economics, Dyer taught school for seven years. In 1974, he became a research economist with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

While at the IBEW, he served as OPEIU, Local 2 Chief Shop Steward. In 1975, Dyer was elected to the Local 2 Executive Board and in 1984 as First Vice President of the Local. In 1985, he became a full-time Staff Representative of Local 2, and in 1993 was elected President of the Local. At the 21st Triennial Convention, Dyer was elected Vice President of Region II.

In addition to serving as President of OPEIU Local 2, Dyer serves as a Vice President of the Maryland State and D.C. AFL-CIO, as a member of the Executive Board of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Unions, AFL-CIO, and as

President of the Board of the AFL-CIO Credit Union.



**Theresa Kandt**  
Region VII

**T**heresa Kandt's involvement in union activism began at an early age when her mother, who is a CWA member, was involved in a right-to-work campaign in Oklahoma.

Kandt became involved with OPEIU in 1983 when she was the first person to sign a union card at her UAW Legal Services Plan office. Her leadership continued over the years as she held several positions on her local union Executive Board: President, Vice President, Recording Secretary and Trustee. Kandt is currently the Secretary-Treasurer of Local 42.

Kandt was hired as the local union's Business Agent in 1987. She continues in that capacity today where she services approximately 90 collective bargaining agreements. She is also a National Executive Board member of the Coalition of Labor Union Women.

Kandt was elected Region VII Vice President in 1998 in Chicago and has continued to devote her efforts to servicing and organizing.





**Richard Lanigan**  
Region II

**A**fter completing his studies at the State University of New York at Stony Brook on his Bachelor's of Arts degree in History, Richard Lanigan joined the OPEIU, Local 153 as an Organizer in February 1980. In this position, he had many successes recruiting new members into Local 153.

After serving as an organizer for approximately two years, he was promoted to Business Representative. In this position, he continued his organizing efforts and gained experience in negotiating contracts, handling of grievances and conducting arbitration hearings.

In 1987, Lanigan enrolled as an evening student at New York Law School. The following year, OPEIU International President John Kelly hired him to be his assistant. There, he was responsible for the field staff operations of the International Union and advising locals on issues of arbitration, bargaining, strikes, parliamentary procedure and membership rights under local union constitutions.

After completing his studies and being admitted to the New York State Bar, he was appointed OPEIU Associate General Counsel. In this position, he assisted General Counsel Joseph Finley in the litigation work of the International Union, represented Local Unions in grievance arbitrations and represented OPEIU in jurisdictional disputes with other International Unions. He continues to represent OPEIU in Article XX and XXI hearings to this day.

In 1994, he was elected Secretary-

Treasurer of Local 153, and in June 1994, Vice President of the OPEIU. In September 1996, he was elected Vice President of the New York State AFL-CIO. He is a Trustee of the Perishable Food Industry Pension Fund, the Local 153 Pension, Health and Long-Term Disability Funds, the Group Health, Inc. (GHI) Pension Fund, and the OPEIU International Pension Fund.

He is the recipient of the 1996 New York Branch — National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Distinguished Service Award and the 1999 Annual Freedom Leadership Award.

Lanigan also received the 1998 OPEIU Henderson B. Douglas Memorial Award and the 2004 Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

**Green P. Lewis**



Region III

**G**reen P. Lewis was elected Vice President of Region III in 2004, and served as an International Representative since 2001. Prior to that, he had a long career with the AFL-CIO, serving as field representative, director of Region V, assistant national director of the Field Service Department, and director of Community Services.

Prior to his union service, Lewis was a science teacher and assistant football coach. His education includes a degree from Fort Valley State University, advanced studies at American University and the Southern Labor School, as well as Florida International University's Institute for Labor Research and Studies.

He is married and lives in Columbus, Georgia.



**Mary Mahoney**  
Region II

**M**ary Mahoney has been a member of OPEIU Local 6 for more than 30 years. During her time as a member, Mahoney was an employee of the Massachusetts Trial Court, which is Local 6's largest bargaining unit. She began as a steward for Local 6, and later became an Executive Board Member. After several years as an Executive Board Member, she was elected to the position of Executive Board Vice President.

Mahoney was elected to her current position of President in 1995. She became Business Manager of Local 6 in 2001. She also serves as a Vice President to the Massachusetts AFL-CIO, and received that organization's highest honor in 2006, a delegate to CLUW, and serves on a number of central labor councils in Massachusetts.

Mahoney was elected as an OPEIU Vice President for Region II at the 2001 International Convention and was re-elected in 2004. Mahoney is an alternate vice president of the Coalition of Labor Union Women and serves on the Executive Council for the Greater Boston Labor Council.

**For more  
information  
about the OPEIU,  
visit our  
website at  
[www.opeiu.org](http://www.opeiu.org)**



**John Mattiacci, D.P.M.**  
Region II

**A** Board Certified physician practicing podiatric medicine and surgery since 1970, John A. Mattiacci, D.P.M. is the President of the OPEIU National Guild of Medical Professionals, chartered in 1996.

A Doctor of Podiatric Medicine since 1970, Dr. Mattiacci is currently Dean and CEO of the Temple School of Podiatric Medicine in Philadelphia. He has been a Vice President of OPEIU Region II since 1998. He serves on the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO Executive Council. He is Chairman of the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO Executive Council. He is Chairman of the Pennsylvania Podiatric Medical Association's Labor Committee and co-chair of that group's Ethics Committee. He also serves as a Consultant to the PPMA's Board. Dr. Mattiacci is board certified in podiatric surgery and is a fellow of the American College of Foot Surgeons.



**Christine Page**  
Region V

**C**hristine Page joined the OPEIU in 1978 with Universal Studios in Hollywood, California. Having

worked in various positions throughout a fifteen year career with Universal while holding various positions on the Local 174 Executive Board, including its President, she left the studio in 1993 to join the Local's staff in Burbank.

Under her leadership as Business Representative, the Local has organized and gained contracts for Warner Brothers, Warner Brothers Studios Facilities, the Cinematographer administrative staff, and Citiwalk. Its most recent addition has been to welcome the Disney Studio into the Local 174 family.

She was elected Vice President for Region V in 2006.



**Phillip Pope**  
Region III

**P**hillip R. Pope began his involvement in the labor movement as a job steward for the Pulp and Sulfito Workers Union (now PACE) in 1966. He later belonged to the Sheet Metal Workers Union and was fired for union activities during a Steelworkers organizing campaign in 1970. Pope was hired by AFL-CIO's Industrial Union Organizing Department (IUD) and in the same year (1970) he began employment as an International Representative for UNITE. While serving as an organizer assigned to the IUD, he was successful in organizing more than 10,000 new union members in the southern states, where organizing is difficult due to right-to-work laws.

Pope joined OPEIU Local 268 (now Local 2001) as the Business Representative in Knoxville, Tennessee in 1988. Under his leadership, Local 2001 signed up one or more new union members in each consecutive month for the 162 months (thirteen years and five months). Pope has served as International Vice President since 1998 and has been President of Local 268 since 2000.



**Patricia Priloh**  
Region II

**A**n OPEIU International Representative since 1983, Patricia Priloh was born and has worked in Brownsville, Pennsylvania most of her life. It is where she married and had three daughters, one stepdaughter and nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Plus, it's where she leads OPEIU Local 457.

Priloh graduated from St. Francis Hospital School of Nursing in Pittsburgh in 1959.

While working as a registered nurse at Centerville Clinic in Centerville, Pa., she joined Local 457. Ultimately, she was elected in 1980 to the position of President, a title she still holds today.

Over the years, Priloh has worked as a volunteer on many OPEIU organizing campaigns, mostly involving hospitals and health care workers.



**Anita Roy**  
Region VII

**A**nita Roy, a Business Manager with Local 12, is deeply involved in both union and community activities. She is a founding member of the

Coalition of Labor Union Women, Twin Cities Chapter from 1998-2001, a member of the Community Services Standing Committee of the Minnesota AFL-CIO, has served as a delegate to the OPEIU conventions in 1989, 1992, 1995 and 1997, has served as Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Local 12 Health and Welfare Fund and its Pension Fund, among many other positions.

She served as a Local 12 Executive Board Member, Sector Representative from 1977-1979, Sector Representative and Trustee from 1986-1989, and as President from 1989-1990.

Roy has been a member of Local 12 since 1974 and OPEIU Region VII since 1996.



**Aaron E. Sanders**  
Region VII

**A**aron Sanders was born in Lansing, Michigan. He joined the Air Force as a Crew Chief on A-10s, then attended Lansing Community College and received a certificate in Corrections and studied toward becoming a paralegal. Once Sanders was employed with OPEIU Local 512, he returned to Lansing Community College to take classes that would better assist him with field labor relations and contract negotiations.

In May 1987, Sanders joined the Michigan Department of Corrections. In October 1995, he was injured in the line of duty defending an officer from a prisoner assault, resulting in a surgery to repair his hand.

In 1996, while convalescing from his injury, Sanders volunteered with Local 512. He later became employed with Local 512 as a Labor Representative.

Sanders is currently employed with Local 2002 as a Labor Representative, but has remained as a member of Local 512. He has arbitrated approximately 300 cases for OPEIU as a Labor Representative in front of the Michigan Department of Civil Services and AAA.

While serving as a member with OPEIU Local 512, Sanders has held positions of Trustee, Recording Secretary, Vice President and is currently the President. In 2004, Sanders was elected to the position of Vice President representing Region VII. He has been married for more than 17 years to Karilyn and has four children.



**Becky Turner**  
Region IV

**B**ecky L. Turner was appointed Region IV Vice President to fill the unexpired term of J.B. Moss upon his death. She has been a member of Local 277 in Fort Worth, Texas since 1978. Turner started her career as a member of Local 277 at General Dynamics as a Grammatical Editor for technical publications. While employed at General Dynamics and later at Lockheed Martin, Turner was elected as committeeperson for Local 277 in the Logistics Department in 1980 and served as such until she was appointed as Chief Steward in 1991 for that department. In 1985, it was her privilege to be elected to the Step III Grievance Committee for Local 277 and also served in that capacity until she took a leave of absence in 1995 to work full time for Local 277 as the first female business representative. She served as a Trustee for Local 277 from 1985 until being elected to Vice President in 1994 and held that office until succeeding to the Presidency of Local 277 in 2001. She has been on the negotiating team for Local 277 since 1987. Turner is the current elected President of Local 277 as well as the Business Manager.

Born and raised in Texas, Turner currently resides in Weatherford, Texas. She is married to Dennis M. Turner and they have two sons, Scott and Tyler. They are also the proud grandparents of Mackenzie and Devin Turner. Turner is a graduate of the University of Texas with a Bachelor of Arts degree.



**Tamara Rubyn**  
Region V

**T**amara R. Rubyn serves as the President/Business Manager of Local 29 located in Oakland, California. Rubyn has been on the leadership staff at OPEIU 29 for the past sixteen years. Prior to her tenure at OPEIU 29, Rubyn worked at Blue Cross of California and served as a shop steward during her work there.

While preserving the rights of workers, negotiating meaningful collective bargaining agreements and representing the members, Rubyn and her leadership team mentor and coach their members to gain the skills that will be necessary to become the future leaders of Local 29.



**Julie Weir**  
Region VII

**J**ulie Weir is originally from Colorado and presently resides in Cleveland, Ohio. She graduated from Oberlin College in 1986 with honors in Third World Studies. She then accepted a bargaining unit position and became a member of OPEIU. In 1987, she was elected to the Executive Board of OPEIU, Local 502 as

Vice President and chair of the grievance committee. Since that time, she has served on the Executive Board of Local 502 in different capacities including Secretary, 1st Vice President and now as 2nd Vice President/President elect. Over the past years, Weir has taken a couple of short-term leaves from her bargaining unit position to work on behalf of the International on organizing projects. Since 1995, she has served on the Steering Committee of the Great Lakes Organized Labor Management Committee (GLOLMC), formerly the Lorain County Organized Labor Management Committee. She was elected to the International Executive Board as a Vice President for Region VII in 1998.

**Judith Zenk**  
Region VI

**J**udith Zenk was elected a Vice President for Region VI in 2003. In 1980, Zenk became an Assistant Business Representative for OPEIU Local 23. In 1981, she became Local 23's Business Repre-



sentative and also served as a Labor Trustee for Western States Office and Professional Employees Fund.

Zenk has also been the Co-Chair Trustee for Cascade Regional Blood Services Pension Plan since 1998. As a labor member, Zenk has served various Community Boards, including the YMCA, Pantages Theater, Tacoma Community College and the Governor's Commute Reduction Board.

## International Representatives and Organizers



**Paul Bohelski**

**P**aul Bohelski joined OPEIU, Local 277 on April 2, 1997 and serves as a Senior International Representative based in Region IV. He brings more than 25 years of experience in the labor movement, and has been instrumental in organizing helicopter pilots and flight instructors into OPEIU.

Bohelski began his labor career as a job steward for the International Brotherhood of Teamsters in Chicago, Ill. and continued involvement in the labor movement with IBT, moving to San Antonio in 1980. After a com-

pany merger, the surviving union was the Union of Transportation Employees, an independent labor union. Under Bohelski's leadership, UTE affiliated with the OCAW. He was elected to two four-year terms as Business Representative with OCAW Local 1996 and was President from 1994-1997.

In his time with the OPEIU, he has negotiated contracts with Air Logistics for Gulf helicopter pilots, Dresser Valve, ANICO, and Texaco Employees Credit Union in Port Arthur, Texas. He is also now assisting several locals in Region IV with their organizing efforts. In January 2007, Bohelski was promoted to Senior International Representative.

**Ed Darcy Sr.**

**E**d Darcy Sr. comes from a labor family; both his father and mother were union activists during the 1940s.

After serving in the U.S. Air Force, Darcy worked for Pan American Airways and in a short period of time became a Shop Steward in TWU Local 500, the local that represents the employees at Miami International Airport.

In the late '70s Darcy gained employment as a Supervisor for Metro Dade County. He immediately became involved with establish-



ing a Supervisory Union, recognizing the benefits of being in a union at Pan Am and wanting the voice and security a union contract brings. As a charter member, Darcy held the title of President for 16 years. He was instrumental in affiliating the Supervisors Association with OPEIU. Starting with a unit of about 500 members and bringing it to where it stands today: a multi-county and municipality Local that represents more than 5,000 Supervisory and Professional employees.

Upon retiring from Metro Dade County, Darcy became part of the OPEIU staff. As

Regional Director for the State of Florida he found his home as a grassroots organizer leading efforts around the state. His vision is to take the successful organizing principles used in South Florida and create strategic locals so the presence of OPEIU will be a force that is recognized and respected throughout the Sunshine State.

In 2000, Darcy received the Henderson B. Douglas award for organizing.



**Ed Darcy Jr.**

**E**d Darcy Jr. is a third generation union activist. His grandfather and grandmother were both activists in the 1940s, and his father began his involvement in the movement in the early '70s.

Darcy began working at Local 100 in 1988. At first, he assisted the stewards in the processing of grievances and conducting of internal organizing. In a few years, he was working in Tallahassee, Florida, accomplishing lobbying work for the Local as well as leading organizing efforts; in a few years, he was able to double the membership.

In December 1998, Darcy became an OPEIU Organizer. He has been involved in many successful organizing efforts, including the 1,100 Professional Employees of Broward County. In 2000, he received the Henderson B. Douglas award for organizing. Currently, he is immersed in organizing efforts around the Sunshine State.

### **Larry Kopechanski**

**L**arry Kopechanski had been employed in the Pulp and Paper industry for 31 years. Of those 31 years, he spent five years as Vice President of OPEIU Local 386, and more than 25 years as President.

Since his early retirement in December 2004, he has been working for OPEIU as an International Representative while continuing to serve as President of Local 386.



From union parents, he has had the union doctrine instilled from an early age. After taking several weekend and weeklong educational courses, he attended the Labour College of Canada, an intensive two-month residential program conducted at the University of Ottawa.

Kopechanski has had negotiating experience in pulp and paper, education, credit unions, hospitals, and crisis centers. He has also been involved in organizing within crisis and youth counseling centers.



**Josué Montijo**

**J**osué Montijo was born in Ponce, Puerto Rico. He began working as a part-time organizer for the International in 2001. He has been involved in the successful organizing of Administration of General Services, Milk Industry, Council for Higher Education, Head Start Archbishops of San Juan and Head Start Avance.

### **Gary Nuber**

**G**ary Nuber began his career in the labor movement in 1981, when he became a Steward for his bargaining unit represented by the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW). He went on to become the Chief Steward and a Bargaining



Committee member.

In 1987, after several years of attending the University of Wisconsin on a part-time basis, he enrolled as a full-time student. In 1988, Nuber received an Associate of Arts degree. In 1990, he completed his Bachelor of Arts degree, with a major in Sociology. Finally, in 1992, he was awarded a Master's of Industrial and Labor Relations degree.

In January 1993, Nuber began to serve as Business Agent for OPEIU, Local 95 in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin. The five-year experience gave him exposure to both private and public sector collective bargaining, as well as grievance handling, mediation, preparation and presentation of arbitration cases, legal and arbitral research, union operations, and all aspects of membership servicing.

For more than nine years, Nuber has been an International Representative servicing the membership in Region VII. In January 2007, Nuber was promoted to Senior International Representative.



**Faye Orr-Headrick**

**T**he Council of the Tennessee Valley Authority/OPEIU hired Faye Orr-Headrick in January 1977. When the Council was abolished in 1982, she worked

for OPEIU, Locals 273 and 119 in Tennessee until June 1984, when she was hired by the International Union as a representative. Since then she has assisted locals throughout Region III (the Southeastern United States) in servicing members and administering collective bargaining agreements.

Orr-Headrick has also served as President of OPEIU, Local 179 since 1989; Vice President of the Tennessee AFL-CIO since 1986; and Chairperson of the Salary Policy Employee Panel, which negotiates for the thousands of white collar employees of TVA, since March 1988. She currently serves as a Senior International Representative.



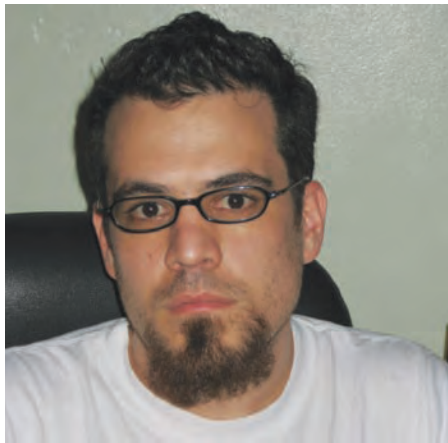
**Shelia Peacock**

**S**helia Peacock has been a Project Organizer with the International since March 2000 and has a long history in the labor movement. In the 1970s, she was the youngest person to ever serve as Chairperson of her local in the International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU) in Kilgore, Texas.

After moving to Houston, Peacock became active in OPEIU, Local 129, serving as Vice President and Business Representative. She has been President of Local 129 since 1986. Peacock has successfully negotiated contracts in Houston with most of the Building Trades unions, the Firefighters, the Letter Carriers, OMNI-PLEX at NASA, among others.

In doing this she has gained and held the respect of these labor leaders and company executives. Peacock comes from a family of union activists. Her father was strong in the OCAW during the 1940s and '50s, and her mother was a charter member of the ILGWU local in Kilgore.

Peacock lives in Houston with one of her sisters, Gail and her foster child, Joshua, the light of her life. She is active in her church and local charity projects.



**Iram Ramirez**

**I**ram Ramirez was born in Ponce, Puerto Rico. In January 1999, he began working for the OPEIU, Local 402 as a part-time organizer, while still a student at the University of Puerto Rico. With studies in the Department of Labor Relations, Ramirez graduated Magna Cum Laude in the summer of 1999.

Ramirez also has a Master's Degree in history, with a concentration on the 19th and 20th century labor movement, for which he graduated Magna Cum Laude in the summer of 2004. Ramirez is now concluding a Doctoral degree (Ph.D) in history.

Ramirez is an associate professor in the Department of Social Sciences at the University of Puerto Rico, where he gives nightly courses in the Institute of Labor Relations, to union members and the future labor leaders.

Ramirez has successfully organized and negotiated contracts for the employees at the Administration of General Services, Milk Industry, Council for Higher Education, Head Start Archbishops of San Juan and Head Start Avance. He has also negotiated the contract for J&J and QSI in Ft. Buchanan for Local 4873, ITPEU.

**Jeff Rusich**

**A**fter college, Jeff Rusich began his labor career as a member of the Cabinetmakers, where he worked for 10 years and completed an apprenticeship.

Rusich also served 15 years as an OPEIU member, five years as a local Executive Board member and Chief Steward. He has now worked 20 years as an International Organizer.

At one time he worked for five years as a phone counselor and community educator at a crisis and suicide prevention agency in California. Rusich has also worked on vari-



ous grassroots campaigns, including working to defeat a measure to increase residential growth in his local community.

Rusich is married to Patricia Mitchell Rusich.

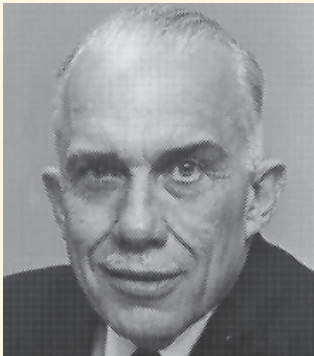


**Donna Shaffer**

**D**onna Shaffer began her career in the labor movement in May 1978 and became an OPEIU member in Phoenix, Arizona. In 1986, Shaffer became a dedicated volunteer organizer. She is a member of the Coalition of Labor Union Women and joined the International staff in May 1987 as a full-time organizer. She currently serves as a Senior International Representative.

Shaffer is especially fond of orchestrating healthcare campaigns. An outstanding victory is the organizing of 900 RNs at St. Vincent Health System in Little Rock, Arkansas. She was the lead organizer on the St. Vincent campaign, and has overseen other RN campaigns in South Carolina and in Nashville, Tennessee.

Shaffer resides in Tombstone, Arizona and is married to Lonny. She has three grown children, three grandchildren and a pair of twin grandchildren coming in the very near future.



**Paul Hutchings**  
1945-1953



**Howard Coughlin**  
1953-1979



**John Kelly**  
1979-1994



**Michael Goodwin**  
1994-present

# OPEIU TIMELINE

**1906** Henry Ford begins manufacturing the Model T (available in any color, as long as it's black).

First clerical federal charter issued by AFL to a local union: Stenographers, Typists, Bookkeepers and Assistants, Federal Labor Union No. 11587 (became OPEIU Local 1, Indianapolis).

**1933** President Roosevelt's first Fireside Chat is broadcast on radio. These chats are an attempt to calm people during the tumultuous years of the Depression. Roosevelt's New Deal passes the National Recovery Act giving employees the right to organize and bargain collectively. The act was later declared unconstitutional. Hitler becomes Chancellor of Germany. Dachau concentration camp opened. Stalin begins the great purge of the Communist party in the U.S.S.R. He arrests, imprisons and executes many old Bolsheviks. The purge continues until 1939.

Office Employees, Federal Labor Union No. 11773, in St. Louis sends out a call for a national union for the first time.

**1934** Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad buys a diesel powered passenger train, the Burlington Zephyr, which sets a speed record for the trip from Denver to Chicago. Lines begin to adopt diesel powered locomotives because of their speed, relatively low noise levels and cleanliness compared to steam engines, which virtually disappear by 1960. "Tender is the Night" by F. Scott Fitzgerald is published. A strike in Woonsocket,

*R.I., part of a national movement to obtain a minimum wage for textile workers, results in the deaths of three workers. More than 420,000 workers ultimately go on strike.*

**1935** *The Wagner Act is passed, making collective bargaining part of U.S. labor policy; it is declared constitutional in 1937. The Social Security Act is passed.*

**1936** *Germany invades the Rhineland, which it had lost to France in WWI. The Spanish Civil War is fought. Many Americans volunteer, including novelist Ernest Hemingway. The perfusion pump, the first artificial heart, is invented by scientists at Rockefeller University in New York. The National Guard prepares to assault strikers at the General Motors (GM) plant in Flint, Michigan. At the last minute Walter Knudsen, head of GM, agrees to recognize the United Auto Workers Union.*

The first resolution calling for an international union of office workers is presented at the AFL convention in Tampa (referred to the Executive Council), introduced by Mollie Levitas from Chicago.

**1937** *Amelia Earhart is lost at sea. Steel and auto gain first big contracts. First coast-to-coast radio broadcast is a report of the Hindenburg disaster. The Hindenburg, a transatlantic lighter-than-air floating passenger ship, crashes and explodes upon landing in New Jersey. "Of Mice and Men" by John Steinbeck is published.*



**Union National Bank, St. Louis, Missouri.**

In June, a new federal charter is issued for Federal Labor Union No. 20940 in New York City. One of its founding members is Howard Coughlin, then working for IBEW Local 3. Many other locals are chartered this year, including those that became Local 29 in Oakland and Local 30 in Los Angeles. But charters are also lifted from locals in New York and Chicago that join the CIO. A new charter is given to Chicago's Federal Local 20732, later to become OPEIU Local 28.

The AFL, at its convention in Denver, creates the American Federation of Office Employees International Council—a paper organization—to maintain a loose liaison with the newly chartered locals.

On December 11th, George Firth, Harry Beach and others form the Pacific Northwest Conference of Office Employees, which eventually develops into an international council.

**1938** *A national minimum wage is enacted in the United States. Germany invades Czechoslovakia. President Roosevelt sends private memo-*



randa to Britain, France, Germany and Czechoslovakia recommending arbitration of the Sudetenland crisis. This sets the stage for the Munich Pact (Sept. 29). Neville Chamberlain, British Prime Minister, declares “peace in our time” after Hitler agrees to sign the non-aggression pact. Orson Welles broadcasts an adaptation of the H.G. Wells’ book “War of the Worlds.” Hysteria ensues across the country, especially in New York and New Jersey, as many listeners mistake the dramatic play for the actual news coverage of an alien invasion of the United States. The Wage and Hours (later Fair Labor Standards) Act is passed, banning child labor and setting the 40-hour workweek. The Act goes into effect in October 1940, and is upheld in the Supreme Court on February 3, 1941.

Howard Coughlin elected president of the New York Local Union (Federal Union 20940).

**1939** Hitler invades Poland. France and England declare war on Germany. The first regular transatlantic passenger air service begins when Pan American Airways (PanAm) flies 22 passengers from Long Island to Lisbon, Portugal. The trip lasts 23 hours, 52 minutes.

On April 2nd, the West Coast locals meet and form the Pacific Conference of Office Workers.

On June 25th, Harry Beach drowns in a boating accident. J. Howard Hicks succeeds to the leadership of the Portland local.

**1940** France, Norway, Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands fall to the German blitzkrieg. Winston Churchill becomes Prime Minister of Great Britain. Richard and Maurice McDonald of Glendora, California open a drive-in near Pasadena selling hamburgers. FDR is elected to an unprecedented third term. Radios are in 30 million American homes.

An organizing campaign begins for clericals at the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). Henderson B. Douglas, then with the Washington local and working on the AFL staff, is sent there to help.

**1941** Japan attacks Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The U.S. officially enters World War II. The AFL pledges that there will be no strikes in defense-related industry plants for the duration of the war.

**1942** In the U.S., sugar, gasoline, and coffee are rationed. Sales of new cars and trucks are banned. Joe Louis successfully defends his heavyweight



**The first Director of Organization, Henderson B. Douglas, “on the stump” organizes for the Union in 1941.**

# OPEIU Secretary- Treasurers



**J. Howard Hicks**  
1945-1973



**William Lowe**  
1973-1983



**Romeo Corbeil**  
1983-1986



**Gilles Beaugard**  
1986-2002



**Carol Dupuis**  
2002



**Nancy Wohlforth**  
2003-present

*boxing title for the twentieth time. Mass murder of Jews, by gassing, begins at Auschwitz extermination camp. First Japanese-Americans sent to U.S. “relocation camps.” The Battle of Midway occurs. The Bataan Death March in the Philippines kills 5,000 American POWs. U.S. troops in the Philippines surrender to Japan.*

A new federal charter is issued on January 28th to the American Federation of Trade Union Office Employees, Federal Union No. 23076, which split off from Local 20940 and was to be a union of “trade union employees.” This new local union would become OPEIU Local 153 and the largest of the union’s locals.

Forty-six locals convene in Chicago to establish a formal international council, the first step towards an international union. AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany convenes the conference and AFL President William Green addresses it. “The International Council of Office Employee Unions” establishes a constitution and by-laws and elects Howard Hicks its President and Paul Hutchings its Secretary-Treasurer.

**1943** *German invasion of Russia turned at Stalingrad. German and Italian troops in North Africa surrender to the Allies. Italy falls to U.S. troops and declares war on Germany. Essential workers are frozen in their jobs by the federal government. Salvage drives produce 255,513 tons of tin cans, 43,919 tons of fat, 6 million tons of waste paper and more than 26 million tons of iron and steel scrap collected for use in essential industries.*

Toledo Edison Co. signs a first contract with Local 19 (headed by Robert Daugherty).

The International Council opens its first office headquartered at 827 Fourteenth St., N.W., Washington, D.C. The first issue of *The Office Worker* appears in March 1943 with a lead story on an organizing victory in the Seattle shipyards.

Major organizing successes proceeded in the shipyards throughout the country: led by John Kinnick in California, George Firth in Washington State, and Oscar Bloodworth in Florida, among others.

At the Detroit Convention Howard Coughlin gains his first elected office as Council Vice President.

**1944** *Allied Forces invade Normandy. Liberation of Paris. U.S. recaptures the Philippines. D-Day. President Franklin D. Roosevelt ordered the Army to seize the executive offices of Montgomery Ward and Company after the corporation failed to comply with a National War Labor Board directive regarding union shops. Penicillin mass-produced.*

Hicks, Hutchings, and Coughlin – with Larry Nygren (Minneapolis) and Mildred Erickson (Seattle) – meet with the AFL Executive Council to discuss the issuance of a charter to organize office workers. Jurisdiction was the primary issue. When denied, they begin a campaign through the state federations and central labor councils — where no jurisdictional problems had arisen — to gain the charter.

**1945** *President Roosevelt and Chancellor Hitler die in April. Truman becomes President. Germany (May 7) and Japan (Aug. 14) surrender to Allied Forces. U.S. drops atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. George Gallup conducts a poll, including the questions: “Do you know what television is?” and “Have you ever seen a television in operation?”*

On January 8th, AFL President William Green issues charter to Office Employees International Union (OEIU), which begins with 22,000 members, at a convention in Cincinnati, Ohio. Ninety delegates attend from 54 local unions. Original dues were minimally \$1.00 with 45 cents in per capita payments; conventions were annual; and officers held two-year terms of office. Paul Hutchings became the first President and Howard Hicks the secretary-treasurer.

**1946** *Strike this year involves 4.6 million workers and cost 116,000,000 hours of labor. Strike by 400,000 mineworkers begins; other industries follow. In a famous Canadian*



**Howard Hicks (second from right) and Howard Coughlin (front left).**

*arbitration award, Justice Yvan Rand rules that all employees in a bargaining unit must pay the equivalent of union dues, whether or not they are union members. The award settles a bitter strike involving Ford Motor Co. in Windsor, Ontario and the United Auto Workers. The landmark decision has come to be known as the “Rand Formula” and provided a new form of union security.*

Hollywood studio unions (Film Office Workers Guild and the Screen Office Guild) merge and affiliate with OEIU as Local 174. Wall Street’s Stock Exchange local joins OEIU and is chartered as Local 205.

The first Canadian Conference is held in Toronto. Nine local unions send representatives. The first major contract for OEIU in Canada is signed with International Paper Co. during the conference.

At the March convention in Milwaukee, there is a call for a “Million Dollar Fund” to organize clerical workers. The fund – to be raised by the AFL and other unions – never materializes.

Organizing: Electric Boat (Groton, CT, Local 106); 20th Century Fox (Los Angeles, CA, Local 174); Kimberly Clark of Canada (Kapusksing, ON, Local 166).

**1947** *Jackie Robinson breaks baseball’s color barrier.*

*Overriding President Taft’s veto, Congress passes the Taft-Hartley Act, eliminating the unconditional right to strike. The Taft-Hartley Labor Act, curbing strikes, is*

*vetoed by President Truman. Congress overrides the veto.*

Howard Coughlin challenges Paul Hutchings to the presidency at the Convention held in Chicago. C.H. Attebury of Tacoma challenges Howard Hicks. Delegates narrowly re-elect Hutchings and Hicks. At that same convention, Marcel Francq of Montreal convinces the delegates of a need for a Canadian vice president, and Region V is created.

**1948** *Israel declares independence. Bell Labs invents the transistor, paving the way for computers and portable stereo amplifiers. House Committee on Un-American Activities starts looking everywhere for communists. Gandhi is fatally shot by a Hindu fanatic in New Delhi. The term “Cold War” becomes widely used to describe the U.S. relationship with the U.S.S.R.*

OEIU Local 205 strikes the New York Stock Exchange, Curb Exchange, and several brokerage houses.

Because of financial constraints, by local union referendum (the first ever conducted), it was decided to dispense with the 1948 convention.

Organizing: Gales Products Co. (Galesburg, IL, Local 221); Blue Cross (Newark, NJ, Local 32).

**1949** *The Soviet Union detonates its first nuclear device. United Nations headquarters are dedicated in New York City. The United States and Western*



Romeo Corbeil, 1977-1983

*European countries establish the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) for collective security.*

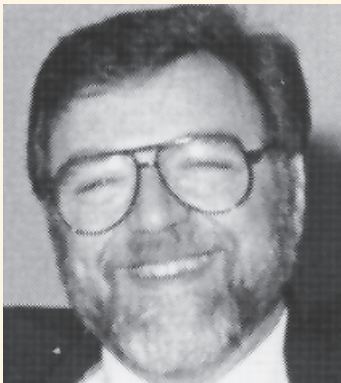
Union holds its convention in St. Louis, Missouri. Lucien Bruneau of Local 191 becomes the first Canadian officer of the International Union.



Fred Trotter, 1983-1986

**1950** *U.S. Army seizes all railroads on Truman's order to prevent a general strike. Truman orders troops to South Korea to participate in a UN force that will help repel North Korean troops from the country, is the start of U.S. involvement in the Korean War. Nine percent of homes own TV sets. By 1979, 98 percent of U.S. homes have a television. The first National Basketball championship is played. The Minneapolis Lakers defeat the Syracuse Nationals.*

Organizing: Sandia Corporation in Albuquerque organizes August 30th under Local 251; gains first contract in 1951. Blue Cross (Buffalo, NY, Local 212); Harry Stevens at Yankee Stadium (New York, NY, Local 153).



Michel Rousseau, 1986-1989

**1951** *Julius and Ethel Rosenberg are sentenced to death for wartime espionage. Fighting ends in Korea. The Japanese Peace Treaty is signed. Price controls are introduced to curb high inflation. "Bedtime for Bonzo," starring Ronald Reagan, is released by Universal Pictures. The first written International Union contract is reached with the Tennessee Valley Authority. International Union convention held in Toronto, Ontario.*



Anne Harvey, 1989-1990



Michel Lajeunesse, 1990-2004

#### Editor's Note:

*Jerri New from Local 378 in Vancouver, British Columbia also served as Canadian Director from April 2004, but led the Canadian sector members out of OPEIU on June 20, 2004.*

Organizing: Consolidated Vultee Aircraft; AG Spaulding (Chicopee, MA, Local 269); Blue Cross, Milwaukee, WI, Local 9); 1,300 administrative employees in the New York city hotels (New York, NY, Local 153); Maidenform (Bayonne, NJ, Local 20); St. Regis Paper and Consolidated Paper (Quebec, Local 256); Curtiss-Wright Propeller & Electronics (Patterson, NJ and Buffalo, NY); Twin Cities Arsenal (Minneapolis, MN, Local 12); Lone Star Ordinance (Texarkana, TX).

**1952** *Television transmission begins in Canada. U.S. seizure of the nation's steel mills is ordered by Truman to avert a strike; ruled illegal by the Supreme Court.*

Education conferences are held to train local union staff and officers.

Organizing: City of Hope (Los Angeles, CA, Local 30); Federal Cartridge (Minneapolis, MN, Local 12); Southern Union Gas (Galveston, TX, Local 27); Cutter Labs (Oakland, CA, Local 29); Pantex Atomic Plant (Amarillo, TX, Local



**A happy member.**

306); C.W. Sweeney Insurance Consultants (San Francisco, CA, formerly Local 36); McKellar General Hospital (Ft. William, ON, Local 81); Pacific Intermountain Express (Oakland, CA, Local 29).

Local 153 in New York City established the first local union defense fund in July.

**1953** *OEIU gains its first nationwide insurance contract with Insurance Co. of Texas Group (then Local 45). The Korean War ends after three years. U.S. casualties total 37,051; 25,604 of those result in death. 7,955 soldiers remain missing after the war. Dwight D. Eisenhower is inaugurated as President. Republican Senator Joseph R. McCarthy of Wisconsin is investigated by the Senate Privileges and Elections subcommittee, which finds his political activities to be motivated by self-interest. Sen. McCarthy leads the congressional investigation of hundreds of accused dissidents. These investigations center around the perceived threat of communist infiltration into United States society. General Electric announces that all communist employees will be discharged.*

Organizing: Day & Zimmerman (Texarkana, TX, Local 303); B.C. Electric Co. on Victoria Island (affiliation, became Local 300); Kaiser Engineering (Hanford, WA, Local 100); CBS Studios (Local 174); Pacific Intermountain Express (Emmeryville, CA, Local 29); Navajo Freight Lines (Albuquerque, NM, Local 251); Toledo Credit Bureau (Toledo, OH, Local 19).

At the June 1953 convention in Cleveland, Ohio, Howard Coughlin is elected OEIU

International President. Henderson B. Douglas becomes Director of Organization in August. The first of several organizing conferences begins. A major organizing offensive begins as well. Alastair MacArthur becomes the first full-time OEIU Canadian representative.

**1954** *Nautilus, the first nuclear-powered submarine, is launched in Groton, Connecticut. The U.S. Supreme Court issues its landmark decision in Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, stating that racial segregation in public schools is unconstitutional. French forces withdraw from Vietnam. The country becomes partitioned into northern and southern states. Elvis Presley joins Sun Records and what would come to be called Sun's "Million Dollar Quartet" – the four-some that also included Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins, and Johnny Cash. By 1955 Elvis records five songs and gains some popularity in the South. By 1956 Elvis achieves*



**Secretary-Treasurer Howard Hicks raises General Counsel Joseph Finley's hand in a sign of victory after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in OEIU's favor and overturned the NLRB's refusal to assume jurisdiction over labor unions.**

*national fame by making appearances on such television shows as "The Ed Sullivan Show." Forty-five percent of Americans smoke at least one pack of cigarettes a day. Ninety percent of adults drink 3-4 cups of coffee a day. America's favorite meal is fruit cup, vegetable soup, steak and potatoes, peas, rolls with butter, and pie a la mode.*

The first issue of *White Collar* is published.

Local 1 in Indianapolis celebrates its 50th anniversary as a directly chartered local of the AFL, as does Local 2 in Washington, D.C.

Organizing: Elk River Coop Power Association (Minneapolis, MN, Local 12); St. Regis Paper Co. (Three Rivers, PQ, Local 265); GHI (New York, NY, Local 153).

**1955** *Rosa Parks refuses to give her seat to a white man on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama, sparking the Montgomery Bus Boycott. The American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations merge to form the AFL-CIO with a combined membership of 15 million. George Meany becomes the new AFL-CIO president. Disneyland opens. Foreign aid to South Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos is begun by the United States. The Salk vaccine against polio is introduced.*

The union holds its convention in New York City, where the International Union headquarters are moved. Another office is maintained in Washington, D.C.

Organizing: Credit Bureau of Tacoma, WA (Tacoma, WA, Local 23); Pierce County Industrial Medical Bureau (Local 23); B.C.



**Producing labor materials.**

Office Employees Association (affiliations with Local 378, Vancouver, BC); Knights of Columbus Insurance (New Haven, CT, Local 329) reaches a first contract after a four-day strike; Vancouver membership of B.C. Electric affiliates with Local 378.

**1956** *Soviet troops suppress democracy movement in Hungary. The Canadian Labor Congress forms as a result of a merger of the Trades and Laborers Congress of Canada and the Canadian Congress of Labor. It has a membership of more than one million.*

CIO local unions begin to merge with OEIU. For example, the United Bank Employees Local Industrial Union establishes the OEIU Welfare Plan, providing health benefits, life insurance, and accidental death and disability insurance.

For the first time OEIU invokes Article XX (the no-raiding clause) of the AFL-CIO

Constitution against the Newspaper Guild in a campaign for the Minneapolis Star Tribune.

OEIU conducts the first nationwide Blue Cross and Blue Shield organizing campaign. The union already had Newark, Buffalo, and Seattle under contract. AFL-CIO president George Meany joins in supporting the campaign.

Organizing: Metro Transit Authority (Boston, MA, Local 6); Amalgamated Bank of New York (New York, NY, Local 153); West Coast Drug (Seattle, WA, Local 8); Oregon Physicians Service (Portland, OR, Local 11); Yarrows Ltd. (Victoria, BC, Local 15); Canadian Car and Foundry (Montreal, PQ, Local 57); Sarnia General Hospital (Sarnia, ON, Local 347); and numerous paper companies in the U.S. and Canada.

**1957** *The Soviet Union launches the first satellite, Sputnik, into orbit around the earth. U.S. Congress approves the first civil rights bill since Reconstruction to protect voting rights. The Eisenhower Doctrine, given in a message to Congress on January 5, 1957, states the United States will use armed forces upon request in response to imminent or actual aggression from Communist forces in the Middle East. The Doctrine is applied in Lebanon that year, justifying American intervention. Little Rock, Arkansas is in the middle of the American Civil Rights Movement, when the Central High School is racially integrated in September 1957.*

OEIU wins Supreme Court case guaranteeing the right to bargain on behalf of





**Workers express joy at passage of Civil Rights legislation in 1965.**

employees in labor unions in May. The case was argued by OEIU General Counsel Joseph Finley.

The 7th annual convention is held in Minneapolis in June. The union membership passes the 50,000 mark. An International Union Pension fund is created.

Organizing: Joy Manufacturing (Franklin, PA, Local 352); Brown Co. (Berlin, NH, Local 345); Cudahy Bros. Packing (Milwaukee, WI, Local 9); Blue Cross (Milwaukee, WI, Local 225); Remington Rand (Buffalo, NY, Local 212).

**1958** *OEIU changes the Interpreters Guild 19 in July/August. Jimmy Hoffa, president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, writes to propose joint organizing campaigns.*

Canadian membership reaches the 5,000 mark.

Organizing: East Bronx and Brooklyn Medical Group, D.C. Andrews and Yonkers

Raceway (New York, NY, Local 153); Quebec Natural Gas Corp. (Montreal, PQ, Local 57); RCA Service Co. (Los Angeles, CA, Local 174); International Paper (Georgetown, SC, Local 233).

**1959** *The Landrun-Griffin Act passes, restricting secondary boycotts, particularly labor union refusal to handle hot cargo, unfair union election practices, and picketing when a union is organizing.*

**1960** *John F. Kennedy becomes the first Roman Catholic elected President of the U.S. The National Front for the Liberation of Vietnam or National Liberation Front is known to American and allied soldiers in Vietnam as the Viet Cong. The Civil Rights Act (1960) enables federal judges to appoint referees to hear persons claiming that state election officials denied them the right to register and vote. The act is ineffective and therefore it is necessary for President Lyndon B. Johnson to persuade Congress to pass the Voting Rights Act (1965).*

Organizing: R.L. Polk Co. (Cincinnati, OH, Local 388); Roosevelt University affiliates (Chicago, IL, Local 391); Metropolitan Hospital and Clinics (Detroit, MI, Local 42); three more shipping companies (New York, NY, Local 153).

**1961** *The U.S. serves as diplomatic and consular relations with Cuba. The "Invasion of the Bay of Pigs" to overthrow Castro fails. Yuri Gagarin becomes the first human in space, making one almost-complete orbit of the earth. Comdr. Alan Shepard mans the first U.S.*

*sub-orbital space flight. The Berlin Wall is constructed.*

The union's political action fund — Voice of the Electorate (VOTE) — is established.

Organizing: Detroit Federal Credit Union (Detroit, MI, Local 42); more shipping companies (New York, NY, Local 153); Blue Cross sales representatives (New York, NY, Local 153); Mueller Co. (Chattanooga, TN, Local 179); Banco Obrero and Puerto Rico Industrial Development Company.

**1962** *Lt. Col. John Glenn becomes the first American in orbit. The Cuban Missile Crisis results in Soviet Missile withdrawal from Cuba after a U.S. quarantine of the island. Rachel Carson's Silent Spring launches the environmental movement.*



**President Howard Coughlin and New York City Central Labor Council President Harry Van Arsdale Jr. with Gov. Nelson Rockefeller signing a labor-supported bill.**

The 9th OEIU convention is held in Kansas City. Former U.S. President Harry Truman addresses the delegates.

Organizing: B.C. Hydro (Vancouver, BC, Local 378); Consolidated Freightways (Denver, CO, Local 5); SeaLand (Puerto Rico); Saskatchewan Government Insurance affiliates (Regina, SK, Local 397).

**1963** *The Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. delivers his famous "I have a dream" speech to nearly 500,000 civil rights marchers in Washington, D.C. President Kennedy is assassinated in Dallas, Texas. Lyndon Baines Johnson becomes President. Betty Friedan's Feminine Mystique ignites the women's movement. The longest newspaper strike in U.S. history ends. The nine major newspapers in New York City stopped publication more than 100 days before. Congress passes a law mandating equal pay to women.*

The 200 salespeople at Yellow Pages of Bell Canada join OEIU Local 57 (Montreal, PQ). This is the first CLC affiliate to win certification for a group at Bell.

Organizing: SeaLand (Oakland, CA, Local 20); shipping (New York, NY, Local 153); Blue Cross (Montreal, PQ, Local 57).

**1964** *Universal Old Age Pension adopted by the Canadian Parliament. President Johnson signs into law the omnibus civil rights bill, barring discrimination in jobs, public accommodations, etc. U.S. Congress passes the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution authorizing Presidential action in Vietnam. Congress passes the War*

*on Poverty. Twenty-fourth Amendment of the United States Constitution prevents any rights from being abridged due to failure to pay poll tax or other tax. Thirteen years after it was proposed and nearly two years after the measure had been passed by the United States Senate 77-16, the 24th Amendment is ratified on January 23, 1964.*

OEIU wages campaign for the four-day work week.

Organizing: Standard Register (Philadelphia, PA, Local 14); Midwest Manufacturing (Galesburg, IL, Local 221); San Diego Health Association (then local 139); several bakeries and Bakke Steamship Co. (San Francisco, CA, Local 3); Chicago Pneumatic Tool (Ft. Worth, TX, Local 277); Riverview Hospital (Wisconsin Rapids, WI, Local 95).

## A Time of Change . . .

**1965** *Malcolm X is assassinated in New York City. Canada and the U.S. sign the Auto Pact, providing largely free trade in motor vehicles and parts. The first U.S. combat forces arrive in Vietnam. The Medicaid program in the United States, created on July 30, 1965 provides health insurance for the poor. The Medicare Program is a set of amendments to Social Security, first passed on July 30, 1965, that provides health insurance for the elderly.*

At the 10th convention in San Francisco, OEIU changes its name to the Office and Professional Employees International Union (OPEIU). The delegates vote to create an International Union strike fund.

Quebec locals form the Eastern Canadian Council for organizing.



**Secretary-Treasurer Howard Hicks (back row, fifth from the left) and AFL-CIO President George Meany (seated, first from the left) attend the White House Conference on Non-Discrimination with President John F. Kennedy and Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson in September 1963.**

Organizing: Owens-Illinois Glass (Waco, TX, Local 277); several credit unions (Detroit, MI, Local 42); Inland Gas Co. (Vancouver, BC, Local 378); Picatinny Arsenal (Dover, NJ, then Local 142); several credit unions (Hamilton, ON, Local 290); Ladish Co. (Kenosha, WI, Local 336); more hotels (New York, NY, Local 153); medical technologists at various hospitals (Oakland, CA, Local 29); Chicago Pneumatic (Franklin, PA, Local 352); R.L. Polk (Kansas City, MO, Local 320); Grinnell Corp. (Portland, OR, Local 11).

**1966** *Race riots ignite in Detroit, Michigan and Newark, New Jersey. Miranda v. Arizona 384 US 436 1966 is a landmark case in United States Supreme Court history, dealing with the rights citizens of the United States retain when arrested. National Organization for Women (NOW) an American feminist group, is founded on June 30, 1966 in Washington, D.C. by women attending the Third National Conference of the Commission on the Status of Women.*

OPEIU cited as leading Canadian white collar union.

Organizing: American Income Life Insurance (Waco, TX, Local 277); Crittenton Hospital (Detroit, MI, Local 417); Avis (Philadelphia, PA, Local 14); Baton Rouge Water Works; Bristol Township schools (Bristol, PA, Local 426).

**1967** *Canada celebrates its Centennial (100th) birthday. The first Superbowl is played. Twenty-fifth Amendment of the United States*

*Constitution is ratified on February 10, 1967 and provides more details regarding the succession of presidents.*

Organizing: Montreal City & District Savings Bank (Montreal, PQ, Local 434); Hudson United Bank (Union City, NJ, Local 142); New York Hilton (New York, NY, Local 153); Continental Oil Co. (Ponca City, OK); Fordham University (New York, NY, Local 153); Cowlitz General Hospital (Portland, OR, Local 11).

**1968** *Soviet troops suppress a democracy movement in Czechoslovakia. The “Tet Offensive” is launched as North Vietnamese troops attack Saigon. Martin Luther King, Jr. is assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee. Robert F. Kennedy is assassinated in Los Angeles, CA. Peace talks begin in Paris on Vietnam. Canada implements Medicare. British Columbia and Saskatchewan are the first provinces to join; all other provinces soon follow. President Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act of 1968 regarding the discrimination in the sale, rental, and financing of housing.*

The union holds its convention in Philadelphia. Arthur Lewandowski becomes Director of Organization.

Organizing: Canadian membership passes 11,000; Trust Co. of New Jersey (Local 142); American Linen Supply (Minneapolis, MN, Local 12); R.L. Polk (Los Angeles, CA, Local 30); Kaiser Medical (San Diego, CA, Local 443).

**1969** *Neil Armstrong becomes the first man to set foot on the*



**Then International Representative William Lowe (who later became Secretary-Treasurer) shows a picket sign in support of swing shift hours.**

moon. The Woodstock rock festival draws more than 500,000. President Richard Nixon introduces his policy of ‘vietnamization.’ The plan is to encourage the South Vietnamese to take more responsibility for fighting the war. It is hoped that this policy will eventually enable the U.S. to withdraw gradually all their soldiers from Vietnam.

OPEIU International Executive Board creates the Henderson B. Douglas Award (Doug Award) to be given annually to that individual or the local union that organizes the most new members.

Organizing: Lakehead University (Lakehead, ON, Local 81); Purolator (Toronto, ON, Local 131); U.S. and Canadian paper companies; Institute for the Blind (Regina, SK, Local 397).

**1970** *U.S. forces enter Cambodia. U.S. National Guardsmen kill four Kent State students protesting the war in Vietnam. President Richard M. Nixon names*

*the U.S.’s first two female generals. United Farm Workers forced California grape growers to sign an agreement after a five-year strike.*

Organizing: Stelco Credit Union (Toronto, ON, Local 343); Northwest Natural Gas Co. Medical Group (New York, NY, Local 153); Savannah Electric Power & Gas; Centerville Clinics (PA); Group Health Association (Washington, D.C., Local 2); Springhill Bank & Trust Co. (Springhill, LA, Local 411); Blue Cross (Milwaukee, WI, Local 9).

**1971** *The 26th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is ratified, lowering the voting age to 18.*

OPEIU holds its convention in Miami. A committee is appointed to study strengthening Canadian autonomy and representation.

Organizing: City of Ellensburg (Seattle, WA, Local 8); Clark County, WA (Portland, OR, Local 11).

**1972** *Nixon visits the People’s Republic of China and begins normaliza-*



**OPEIU Local 205 President John Kret organizing on Wall Street.**

*tion of relations. The Equal Rights Amendment is approved by the Senate and sent to the states for ratification. U.S. troops begin to withdraw from Vietnam. Nixon makes the first U.S. Presidential visit to Moscow, gaining a strategic arms pact. The Watergate burglars are arrested.*

Associated Unions of American (AUA), an independent union representing 3,000 offices, technical, and clerical employees (Northwest Mutual Life Insurance, Cutler Haramer, Ladish, etc.), merges with OPEIU.

Organizing: Long Island University, Brooklyn (New York, NY, Local 153); school boards and districts and Caisse Populaire, St. Gregoire (Montreal, PQ, Local 57); Blue Shield (San Francisco, CA, Local 3); San Francisco Museum of Art (San Francisco, CA, Local 3); National Bank of Washington (Washington, D.C., Local 2); Brooklyn Polytechnic University (New York, NY, Local 153); Brownsville General Hospital (Centerville, PA, Local 457); Victoria Hospital (London, ON, Local 468); Community Health Care Center (New Haven, CT).

**1973** *In Roe v. Wade, the U.S. Supreme Court declares the laws prohibiting abortion during the first three months of pregnancy are in violation of the 4th Amendment. The Vietnam Peace Pact is signed. North Vietnam begins releasing American P.O.W.s. The end of the U.S. military draft is announced. America's first space station, the seven-ton Skylab, is launched May 14, 1973 by a two-stage version of the Saturn V booster (the SL-1 mission).*

Hypnotists Local 469 chartered in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Organizing: Pacific School of Dentistry (San Francisco, Local 3); several school boards (Montreal, Local 57); Pratt Institute (New York, Local 153); security guards in New York City's hotels (Local 153); Clark Steamship Co. (Montreal, Local 57); University of San Francisco (Local 3).

**1974** *Congress prepares for impeachment proceedings against President Nixon. Nixon subsequently resigns. President Gerald Ford gives Nixon an unconditional pardon.*

The Union's convention takes place in Miami Beach. Romeo Corbeil is elected Canadian Director of the International Union.

Organizing: Muskegon Heights Board of Education (Grand Rapids, MI, Local 353); Delaware Housing Authority (Philadelphia, PA, Local 14); Tacoma Housing Authority (Tacoma, WA, Local 23); Hypnotists Local (Philadelphia, PA, Local 476); University of Southern California Central Library System (Local 30); school districts (Minneapolis, MN, Locals 12 and 39); Kimberly Credit Union (Vancouver, BC, Local 15); Camas police and city employees (Portland, OR, Local 11); Hofstra University (New York, NY, Local 153); Clark County Sheriffs (Portland, OR, Local 11); Sydenham District Hospital (Sarnia, ON, Local 347); Insurance Corp. of B.C. (Vancouver, BC, Local 378).

**1975** *U.S. civilians evacuated from Saigon. Bill Gates and Paul Allen start an informal software partnership called Micro-Soft. The Ebola virus first appears in Zaire.*

Organizing: Detroit Osteopathic Hospital



**William Lowe (left to right) Gov. Nelson Rockefeller and Howard Coughlin.**

(Ypsilanti-Pontiac, MI, Local 417); Teacher's Credit Union (Memphis, TN, Local 367); Richland Police Dept. and Ft. Vancouver Regional Library (Portland, OR, Local 11); National Council of Senior Citizens (Washington, D.C., Local 2).

**1976** *The U.S. celebrates its Bicentennial (200th) birthday. Parti Quebecois wins a majority of seats in the provincial parliament and raises the possibility of Québec seceding from Canada. CLC Day-of-the-Protest against wage controls is supported by more than one million trade unionists in Canada.*

OPEIU membership support is very strong.

New York's Local 205—the Wall St. local—merges with Local 153.  
Organizing: Western Clinic (Tacoma, WA, Local 23); Spring Lake Park Special District (Minneapolis, MN, Local 12); C.W. Post campus of Long Island University (New York, NY, Local 153).

**1977** *Jimmy Carter becomes the 39th President of the United*



**Local 2 members signing contract with Local 2 President John Cahill (seated, second from the right).**

*States of America. Egyptian President Anwar Sadat speaks to the Israeli Knesset, signaling an end to almost three decades of hostilities.*

The 14th OPEIU Convention takes place in Los Angeles. Voice of the Electorate President's 100 club is launched. It is composed of those members, staff and officers who contribute \$100 or more annually to the union's political fund.

A U.S. court rules that the General Dynamics plant in Fort Worth, Texas is a "federal enclave." This in turn means federal law supersedes the state's Right to Work law, and Local 277 can negotiate agency shop.

Organizing: Shalania County Employees (Portland, OR, Local 11); Blue Shield (Milwaukee, WI, Local 9); Seton Hall University (New York, NY, Local 153); Blue Cross (Oakland, CA, Local 29).

**1978** *Al Gore coins the phrase "information highway." The U.S. signs a treaty with Panama, pledging to turn over control of the Panama Canal in 1999. The longest coal strike in U.S. history*



**Local 30, San Diego, California, members protest City of Hope administration's union busting practices.**

*ends on the 110th day. The Camp David Accords are signed by Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin on September 17, 1978, following twelve days of secret negotiations at Camp David.*

Organizing: Caisse Populaire Offices (Montreal, PQ, Local 57); Oberlin College (Oberlin, OH, Local 502); Ocean County, N.J. (Philadelphia, PA, Local 14); Georgetown University Community Health Plan (Washington, D.C., Local 2); Group Health Association of Northeast Minnesota (Minneapolis, MN, Local 12); Bank of Nova Scotia (Vancouver, BC, Local 15).

**1979** *The first major nuclear reactor accident occurs at Three Mile Island, Pennsylvania. Iran's dictator, Muhammad Reza Pahlavi, is overthrown in a revolution led by Shi'ite Muslim clergy-men. Militant students storm the U.S. embassy in Tehran, capturing more than 52*

*Americans, and holding them hostage for 444 days.*

The first convention of the Canadian division of OPEIU is held in Ottawa. Delegates establish the Canadian Consultative Committee to assist the Vice Presidents. Howard Coughlin retires and the union's executive board elects John Kelly International President.

Organizing: Group Health Insurance, Florida (New York, NY, Local 153); Wesleyan University (New York, NY, Local 153); Saginaw, Michigan County Employees, East Tennessee Baptist Hospital (Knoxville, TN, Local 475); American Red Cross (Lansing, MI, Local 459); Passaic County Employees (New York, NY, Local 153); Lafayette College (Philadelphia, PA, Local 14); Oberlin College and Professional Employees (Oberlin, OH, Local 502).

**1980** *Ronald Reagan is elected President. A gunman shoots and kills John Lennon. IBM introduces the IBM PC, starting the personal computer revolution. Mount St. Helens erupts in Skamania County, Washington, killing 57 people. U.S. boycotts Summer Olympics in Moscow to protest the 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. U.S. hockey team beats the U.S.S.R. in the Winter Olympic games, the first time since 1960.*

OPEIU holds its 15th Convention in New York City. John Kelly is elected International President. OPEIU membership reaches 125,000. Convention delegates adopt a resolution thanking





Canadian workers rally at nation's capitol in Ottawa, Ontario.

Canada for sheltering six Americans and saving their lives in Tehran, Iran (1979).

**1981** *Sandra Day O'Connor becomes the first woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court. Inflation in the U.S. hits 14 percent. First U.S. Secretaries Day. Federal air traffic controllers begin a nationwide strike after their union rejects the government's final offer for a new contract. Most of the 13,000 striking controllers defy the back-to-work order, and are dismissed by President Reagan on August 5.*

OPEIU Local Unions throughout the United States travel to Washington, D.C. to participate in Solidarity Day.

Organizing: Golden Gate University (San Francisco, CA, Local 3); Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority (Washington, D.C., Local 2); Dowling College and Fairleigh Dickinson (New York, NY, Local 153).

**1982** *Great Britain and Argentina go to war over the Falkland Islands. E.T. is released in American theaters. A boycott is initiated by the Industrial Association of Machinists against Brown & Sharpe, a machine, precision, measuring and cutting tool manufacturer, headquartered in Rhode Island. The boycott is called after the firm refuses to bargain in good faith and forces the union into an unwanted and bitter strike, during which police spray pepper gas on some 800 IAM picketers at the company's North Kingston plant. The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) subsequently charges Brown & Sharpe with regressive bargaining, and of entering into negotiations with the express purpose of not reaching an agreement with the union.*

Local 251 wins historic agency shop in right-to-work state of New Mexico. Employees of Sandia Laboratories vote two-to-one to ratify contract. Members of Local 434 in Montreal gain agreement providing a breakthrough in maternity leave.



**OPEIU General Counsel Joseph Finley (second from left) appears before the U.S. Supreme Court with his attorney daughter Lucinda Finley (far left) to argue for women to collect discrimination awards tax-free. Also pictured are President John Kelly, Business Representative Faye Orr, Vice President Jim Sheridan and Secretary-Treasurer Gilles Beauregard.**

Organizing: City of Richmond Police Department (Portland, OR, Local 11); Coca-Cola (Chattanooga, TN, Local 179).

**1983** *Three hundred U.S. and French troops are killed in Beirut, Lebanon when a suicide bomber drives a truck filled with explosives into their barracks. The United States invades Grenada in a military campaign called Operation Urgent Fury.*

International Executive Board elects Romeo Corbeil to the office of Secretary-Treasurer by a unanimous vote. Corbeil has a long history as an Organizer, Representative, Vice President and Canadian Director.

Canadian Labor movement launches Solidarity Day protesting reactionary legislative proposals. Solidarity Day III is con-



**AFL-CIO Solidarity Day 1981.**

ducted in Vancouver, B.C. Some 50,000 trade unionists participate, including members of Locals 378 and 15.

**1984** *The U.S. Center for Disease Control announces that a newly isolated virus called H.I.V. is the cause of AIDS. The Soviet Union and most of Eastern Europe boycott the Summer Olympics in Los Angeles. Ronald Regan is re-elected in the U.S. presidential election.*

OPEIU sues the TVA for sex discrimination on behalf of its female members. TVA had implemented pay schedules that would lead to higher increases in male-dominated job titles.

Howard Coughlin founder and builder of the International union, passes away after a lifetime of service to the OPEIU. Coughlin served on the presidential advisory commissions on education and equal opportunity. He also served as a chair of the American Arbitration Association.

**1985** *Scientists discover a hole in the ozone layer. Mikhail Gorbachev calls for glasnost and perestroika in the Soviet Union.*

Local 2 achieves first contract with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. Thousands of members strike Local 153 Depository Trust on Wall Street, the hotel industry in New York City and East Nassau Medical Group. Local 153 successfully resolves all three strikes, winning major gains for its members.

Local 12 members take on employer, Minnegasie in a shareholder proxy battle

and emerge victorious when OPEIU activist John Shand is elected to Diversified Energies' Board of Directors.

Organizing: Monmouth College (Newark, NJ, Local 32).

**1986** *The largest nuclear accident in history occurs at Chernobyl in the Soviet Union. The Space Shuttle Challenger explodes shortly after take-off, killing all who were aboard. The Iringate scandal breaks. 1,700 female flight attendants win an 18-year lawsuit (that included \$37 million in damages) against United Airlines, which had fired them for getting married.*

OPEIU Local 57 conducts a major bank strike at 26 Caisse Populaire locations. After a lengthy strike, a successful settlement is reached.

International Secretary-Treasurer Romeo Corbeil retires after a long career of service to the OPEIU. Gilles Beauregard is elected Secretary-Treasurer.

Delegates to the 1986 convention establish a scholarship fund for members and their dependents and adopt a policy statement



**Local 153 members on strike on Wall Street in 1985.**



OPEIU float in support of solidarity.

stating the union's mission and philosophy.

Organizing: Ozaukee County (Local 35).

**1987** *Pay equity legislation is passed in Ontario. A West German pilot lands unchallenged in Moscow's Red Square. Black Monday, October 19, 1987, the Dow Jones*



Local 3, San Francisco, California and Local 29, Northern California/Nevada, at a march.

*Industrial average falls 22.6 percent, the largest one-day decline in recorded market history.*

OPEIU begins participation in the Union Privilege Program, paving the way for the OPEIU MasterCard.

As a result of a settlement of a lawsuit filed



OPEIU members and their families at Family Day, Washington, D.C.



**Local 153 members on strike against the Trust Company in New Jersey.**

by OPEIU, thousands of OPEIU's female members at the TVA receive a total of \$5 million in pay equity raises.

OPEIU conducts an educational conference, where participants learn how to lobby on behalf of members and their families.

San Diego Hospital workers win their first contract. OPEIU members at the New York Stock Exchange strike for improved pension and health care benefits. Local 1 celebrates its 80th anniversary.

Organizing: Highway Traffic Board (Madison, WI, Local 39).

**1988** *George Bush is elected President of the U.S. Canada and the U.S. reach free trade agreement (NAFTA). Pan Am Flight 103 explodes from a terrorist bomb over Lockerbie, Scotland.*

OPEIU rallies with thousands to bring about legislation sympathetic to the needs of working families. Members throughout the U.S. travel to Washington, D.C. for Family Day.

Winners of OPEIU's Howard Coughlin Scholarship competition are announced.

**1989** *Chinese troops open fire on students protesting for democracy in Tiennamen Square. The Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska's Prince William Sound is the largest in U.S. history. Its remote location (accessible only by helicopter and boat) makes government and industry response efforts difficult and tests existing plans for dealing with such an event.*

OPEIU rallies its support for Eastern Airline workers at LaGuardia and Miami international airports.

**1990** *The Berlin Wall falls. Iraqi troops invade Kuwait.*

Local 8 wins an election to represent American workers at Sea Mar. The election is a monumental achievement as Sea Mar is



**Newly elected CLUW National Vice President Gwen Wells, OPEIU Education and Research Director (second from the right, standing), appears with the other members of the CLUW Officers Council. Also pictured is the current CLUW President Gloria Johnson (far right, seated).**



**Local 15 convention delegates support Eastern Airlines strikers in Miami, Florida.**

only the second group in the state of Washington to be represented.

**1991** *U.S. led military blitz expels Iraq from Kuwait. A coup attempt against Mikhail Gorbachev fails, but precipitates the collapse of the Soviet Union.*

OPEIU again rallies its activists to participate in Solidarity Day II. Activists traveled from as far away as California to stand up for American working families. OPEIU members braved 97-degree temperatures to make a statement to George Bush and House Republicans about workplace fairness and striker replacement.

**1992** *Riots rock South Central Los Angeles following the Rodney King verdict. Approximately 50-60 people killed and \$1 billion in damage is caused.*

OPEIU backs William J. Clinton in his victorious presidential race against George Bush. OPEIU delegates convene at the 19th convention of the OPEIU under the banner, “Solidarity Works.” They develop policies

on sexual harassment, free trade and striker replacement.

**1993** *Israel and the Palestinian Liberation Organization accept the Oslo Accords as a framework for negotiating a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. World Trade Center bombing by a car bomb that is planted in an underground garage below Tower One. Six are killed and 1,040 injured.*

Trade unionists travel by bus throughout Canada to participate in a mass demonstration on Parliament Hill known as “Festival for our Future.”

Organizing: Teledirect (Montreal, PQ, Local 57).

**1994** *For the first time in decades, the Republican Party seizes control of both the U.S. House and Senate.*

International President John Kelly passes away. Kelly, who started his career as an organizer, steered the OPEIU through the turbulent '80s and developed programs on education and organizing.

The International Executive Board elects Michael Goodwin to succeed Kelly. Goodwin, who also began as an organizer, rose through the ranks of Local 153, serving as its Business Representative, Secretary-Treasurer and, ultimately, its Business Manager.

Founding convention of Pride at Work (PAW) held in New York City to fight discrimination against gays and lesbians.



A young Michael Goodwin, who would become International President in 1994, at a contract signing in 1969.

**1995** *The O.J. Simpson murder trial becomes the media event of the century. Following the 1994 elections, Republicans gain control of both the House and Senate for the first time since 1955. Sixty-eight people killed in the Oklahoma City bombing, at the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building.*

OPEIU celebrates its 50th birthday. Urging OPEIU delegates to “invest in their future,” International President Michael Goodwin launches a coordinated, nationwide organizing program. Goodwin is elected Vice President of the National AFL-CIO. OPEIU establishes the Models Guild.

OPEIU names a scholarship fund in honor of John Kelly. Romeo Corbeil passes away after a lifetime as the architect of the Canadian sector of the OPEIU.

OPEIU Regional Director Ed Darcy Sr. and local organizers win representation rights for a bargaining unit of 1,100 in Florida by a two-to-one margin.

**1996** *Bill Clinton is re-elected President of the United States. He later appoints Madeline Albright as the first female Secretary of State.*

OPEIU activists rally to support the AFL-CIO’s “America Needs A Raise” campaign. Two thousand members participate in a rally in Manhattan’s financial district.

Caravans of women in cars and buses converge on Ottawa to take part in rallies intended to focus attention on the need for job creation, job training, national day care programs and an increase of the federal minimum wage.

OPEIU Registered Nurses march on the Capitol to alert the public to the dangers of a volatile health care environment.

**1997** *Hong Kong returns to Chinese rule. Scientists are able to successfully clone sheep. President*



OPEIU President Michael Goodwin energizes union members from a number of New York City labor unions.

*Clinton bars federal funding for any research on human cloning.*

Thousands of podiatrists join OPEIU, forming the First National Union for Doctors. The Federation of Catholic Teachers (FCT), comprised of 3,000 teachers affiliates with Local 153.

AFL-CIO recognizes Pride at Work (PAW) as an official constituency group for lesbians and gays, bisexual and transgender union members.

**1998** *The U.S. House of Representatives impeaches President Bill Clinton. Terrorists bomb the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, killing 224 people.*

Eleven thousand members of the National Federation of Clinical Social Workers affiliate with OPEIU. The Pennsylvania Nurses Association affiliates with OPEIU, adding 2,500 new members.

**1999** *A war erupts in Kosovo. The U.S. Senate acquits President Clinton in his impeachment trial.*

**2000** *George W. Bush is elected President of the United States. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports 265,000 new union members in 1999, bringing the total to 16.5 million, which is the largest increase in two decades.*

A delegation of pilots attend a conference in Madrid, Spain of the International Federation of Airline Pilots Association (IFALPA).



**Children join in support of a Federation of Catholic Teachers' new contract.**

**2001** *September 11, 2001 (9-11), a series of coordinated suicide attacks against targets in the U.S. that involve hijacking four commercial airliners. The jets are used as flying bombs killing 2,995 people at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and a Pennsylvania field. In addition to the loss of life, the twin towers of the World Trade Center and five other buildings in NYC are destroyed or partially collapsed, and a portion of the Pentagon is also severely damaged. Because of the attacks, the United States, with support from the United Kingdom and the Northern Alliance, invades Afghanistan in October, 2001 as part of its "War on Terrorism."*

OPEIU reaches landmark of 100,000 members in the U.S. A celebration is held at the AFL-CIO building in Washington, D.C. on May 7.

**2002** *Department of Homeland Security established. It is a department of the federal government of*





President Goodwin calls the OPEIU's organization of 100,000 members in the U.S. "a triumph," and says he looks forward to reaching 200,000 members in the future.

*the United States concerned with protecting the American homeland and safety of American citizens.*

OPEIU Secretary-Treasurer Gilles Beauregard dies. Carol Dupuis is named new Secretary-Treasurer, and tragically, is killed in a car accident on December 31.

Professional Helicopter Pilots Association (PHPA) is founded in New Orleans, Louisiana.

**2003** *Republicans take narrow control of Senate following 2002 elections. Space Shuttle Columbia disaster, killing the entire seven-member crew. This is the second loss of a space shuttle. Invasion of Iraq begins on March 20, 2003, when forces belonging primarily to the United States and the United Kingdom invade Iraq, leading to the collapse of the Ba'athist Iraq government in about three weeks and the*

*start of the U.S.- led occupation of Iraq. Saddam Hussein is captured alive, on December 13, 2003 in a raid near Tikrit.*

Nancy Wohlforth is named OPEIU Secretary-Treasurer.

## Organize and We All Win!

**2004** *Martha Stewart convicted on all counts of obstructing justice and lying to investigators about a well-timed stock sale. Discovery of "planetoid" Senda, 84 million miles from the sun.*

OPEIU Canadian delegation announces independence from OPEIU on June 20, 2004, just prior to the Convention.

In a major victory for OPEIU, nearly 1,000 Prudential Insurance Company of America representatives in 40 states vote to join OPEIU Local 153.

**2005** *Hurricane Katrina, one the deadliest and costliest in the nation's history, strikes the U.S. Gulf Coast; 1,836 people lose their lives in the hurricane and the subsequent flooding. Civil rights leader Rosa Parks dies on October 24. In April, Pope John Paul II dies and the first German, Pope Benedict the XVI, is elected to succeed him. Several unions break away from the AFL-CIO and form the "Change to Win" coalition, namely the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), the United Brotherhood of Carpenters, the Hotel Employees and*

*Restaurant Employees Union (HERE), the Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA), and the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees (UNITE). The Teamsters and the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) later join the coalition.*

OPEIU Secretary-Treasurer Nancy Wohlforth elected to AFL-CIO Executive Council. OPEIU now has three seats on the Council – International President Michael Goodwin, Wohlforth, and AFL-CIO President and OPEIU member John J. Sweeney.

**2006** *Scientists decide Pluto is no longer a planet. On December 30, Saddam Hussein is executed by hanging for his role in the 1982 Dujail massacre, in which 148 Iraqis were killed after a failed assassination attempt against the then-Iraqi president.*

The first helicopter strike in history begins on September 20, involving hundreds of pilots in a bargaining unit of 560 pilots that are employed by PHI, Inc. in Lafayette, Louisiana and are members of Local 108.

On October 10, the Alliance Membership Benefits Program is launched for taxi and limo drivers in Las Vegas, Nevada. The organizing drive is a tremendous success, and plans are made to expand the program to other cities throughout the United States.

## It Pays To Belong!

**2007** *Hillary Clinton announces she will run for president, the second woman ever to do so. On April 16, the nation's deadliest gun massacre occurs on the campus of Virginia Tech, with 33 killed and 20 wounded.*

Local 6 in Quincy, Massachusetts prevails in an attempt by the National Association of Government Employees (NAGE) to steal 3,600 trial court members.

On January 11, after an agreement is reached in federal court between PHI, OPEIU and Local 108 on an orderly process to return remaining pilots to work, ninety striking pilots return to work.



**On January 11, 2007 after an agreement is reached in federal court between PHI, OPEIU and Local 108, striking pilots start the process of returning to work.**



International Union headquarters at 265 West 14th Street, New York, NY.

OPEIU shares space with Local 153 and together occupy more than 10,000 square feet, encompassing the entire sixth floor.

The union has been a tenant in the building since 1937.

Tel. 212-675-3210

Fax 212-727-3466

The Secretary-Treasurer's office at 1660 L Street, N.W. Washington, D.C.

The Secretary-Treasurer's office has been located in this building in Suite 801 since 1996. Prior to 1996, the office was located in the AFL-CIO building.

Tel. 202-393-4464

Fax 202-347-0649





# ALLIANCE WELCOMES OPEIU DELEGATES

Printed in USA



AFL-CIO, CLC