



# WHITE COLLAR

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

No. 518

Issue 3, Fall 2012

## OPEIU Stands for Economic Justice!

OPEIU joined approximately 45,000 union members and their allies for a massive rally and march through the streets of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on August 11, 2012, to kick off labor's

campaign for economic justice. Leading up to the November elections, the Workers Stand for America campaign is mobilizing workers and their allies — faith groups, community activists, civil and women's rights groups and other members of the progressive coalition — for a Second Bill of Rights for the United States.

OPEIU had a large delegation attending the rally, bringing members of Locals 32 in New Jersey and 153 in New York by bus to Philadelphia. The campaign began the night before with a signing of America's Second Bill of Rights by International President Michael Goodwin and other labor leaders, a document calling for rights to full employment and a living wage, democracy

*(Continued on page 3)*

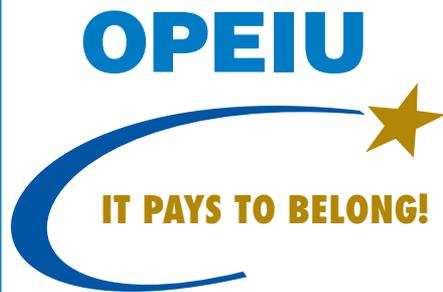


OPEIU President Michael Goodwin signs America's Second Bill of Rights on August 10, 2012, calling for our national leaders to focus on the needs of working Americans.



OPEIU members from Local 32 in New Jersey and Local 153 in New York travel to Philadelphia to participate in the Workers Stand for America rally, held August 11, a day after the signing of America's Second Bill of Rights.

### INSIDE



3

Sign America's Second Bill of Rights!

5

Merck Independent Union Affiliates with OPEIU

10

Take Advantage of OPEIU Towing/Service Calls Benefit

11

McLaren RNs Have New Agreement

Investing in America: Building an Economy That Lasts



# A Country of Blue States and Red States?

By Michael Goodwin, International President

When then-Illinois State Senator Barack Obama addressed the Democratic National Convention in Boston, Massachusetts, in 2004, he filled his speech with statements rejecting separating our country into “blue states” and “red states,” advocating that there is only one state — the United States of America!

Unfortunately, the separation into “blue states” and “red states” is more real today than envisioned by State Senator Obama in 2004. We have become a totally divided country with states clearly endorsing in a large way either Willard Mitt Romney or Barack Hussein Obama. In fact, political analysts have identified 42 states that will clearly vote for one candidate or the other on November 6, 2012, without any chance of a change between now and then. They say that the election comes down to eight “battleground” states.

The Republican Party has veered far to the right as witnessed by the positions taken by the candidates in the primaries. They were willing to say anything, rejecting previous positions on issues, in order to please the Tea Party and the right-wing component of the Republican Party. Their nominee, Romney, has flip-flopped on so many issues that the words of the late Senator Edward M. Kennedy ring true when he said, in the 1994 Senatorial campaign, “I am pro-choice” and he’s “multiple choice.”

We are told that voters in general do not pay attention to candidates in the November elections until after Labor Day. This gave Romney an opportunity to twist and lie about his record as Governor of Massachusetts in the primaries and to switch his positions depending on what state he was campaigning in. And many of these twists and lies are believed by voters, bringing truth to what the famous satirist H.L. Mencken once said, that “no one ever went broke underestimating the intelligence of the American public.”

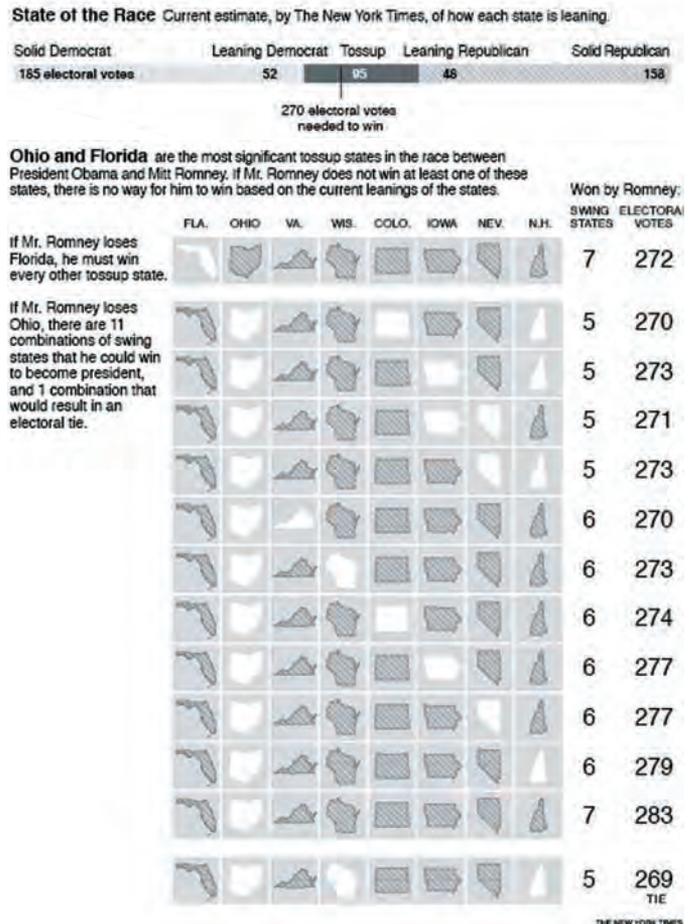
The issues in the election this year could not be clearer. As I watched the Republican National Convention and attended the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina, I was able to compare positions taken at both gatherings. It appeared to me that an average worker would be making the wrong choice to vote for Romney, when you list how a multitude of issues affect each one of us.

Do we really want tax breaks for millionaires and billionaires? Do we really believe that, by giving them tax breaks, it will accelerate job creation? Do we really want to see tax hikes on middle class families? Do we want Medicare as we know it changed to a “voucher” system, where senior citizens will be told, “here’s a check —lots of luck finding an insurance company to cover your medical needs?” Do we really need to live in a country where 50 million people would be without health insurance if it was up to the Republicans who have pledged to repeal Obamacare?

Massachusetts Senatorial candidate Elizabeth Warren said it best when she addressed the Democratic National Convention, referring to Romney and his running mate Paul Ryan’s willingness to “pulverize financial reform, voucher-ize Medicare, and vaporize Obamacare.”

I am very concerned that if Romney and Ryan are elected, working families will be hit hard by numerous adverse affects. The gap between the haves and have-nots will widen, as millionaires and billionaires become richer and richer, and working families continue to struggle to an even greater extent.

The map below refers to the eight battleground states I mentioned earlier, and what Romney will need to do if he loses either Ohio or Florida. In that event, the climb to achieve a victory by attaining 270 electoral votes would be difficult. I am therefore optimistic that President Barack Obama will be re-elected for a second term as president of the United States.



# OPEIU Stands for Economic Justice!

*(Continued from page 1)*

at work and in the political process, guaranteed quality education and better health care, among other goals.

“More than at any point since the Great Depression, now is the time for our country and leaders to focus on the needs of working Americans,” said Goodwin. “As we head toward a national election, the debate must be about the economy and job creation. This Second Bill of Rights calls upon our leaders to make fulfilling these rights for working people a top priority.

“Working women and men have a very important decision to make in November,” Goodwin continued. “Will you vote for a candidate that has pledged his allegiance to the wealthy one percent, or will you stand with President Obama as he continues to fight for the interests of working people? The choice is clear!”

OPEIU and other unions taking part in the campaign have ramped up get-out-the-vote efforts at a national and local level,



The OPEIU bus, on its way to Philadelphia for the rally.

knowing that union member turnout at the polls on November 6 will be crucial. It’s also key to ensuring that the national debate once again focuses on the economic issues affecting working Americans.

OPEIU encourages all members to sign the Second Bill of Rights immediately, either by signing and returning the copy provided below or by electronically signing at [www.WorkersStandForAmerica.com](http://www.WorkersStandForAmerica.com).



## BE HEARD.

Join us in calling on all elected officials to support the middle class.

[www.workersstandforamerica.com](http://www.workersstandforamerica.com)

Please return signed page to:

Workers Stand for America  
900 Seventh Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001

You can email the form to [info@workersstandforamerica.com](mailto:info@workersstandforamerica.com), but please also mail the original(s) to the address above.

## Sign America’s Second Bill of Rights

We the People want to strengthen our nation, as a beacon of equality, economic opportunity and freedom for all. We hold these rights to be essential to our vision of America and believe that the principles contained therein should guide our government, business leaders, organizations and individuals in our common goal of a just and fair society.

**The Right to Full Employment and a Living Wage:** All Americans willing and able to work have the right to safe, gainful employment at a fair and livable wage. We call on the public and private sectors to invest in America’s infrastructure and promote industrial development, maintaining job creation as a top policy priority.

**The Right to Full Participation in the Electoral Process:** Recent initiatives to disenfranchise citizens seek to reduce the rolls of eligible voters and empower money instead of people. We believe these actions constitute an assault on our nation’s democracy and history of heroic struggle against voting restrictions based upon property ownership, religion, race and gender and call for reinforcing our fundamental right to vote.

**The Right to a Voice at Work:** All workers have the right of freedom of association in the workplace, including the right to collectively bargain with their employer to improve wages, benefits and working conditions.

**The Right to a Quality Education:** Education is a fundamental bedrock of our democracy, vital to America’s competitive position in the world and the principal means by which citizens empower themselves to participate in our nation’s economic and political systems. Quality, affordable education should be universally available from pre-kindergarten to college level, including an expanded use of apprenticeships and specialty skills training to prepare Americans for the workplace.

**The Right to a Secure, Healthy Future:** Americans have the right to a baseline level of health care, unemployment insurance and retirement security, all of which have been badly eroded by the disruption of the social compact that served the nation well for decades. We call on government and private industry together to confront the issues of declining access to health care especially for children, weakening of unemployment coverage, and inadequate pension plans that undermine the ability of working men and women to retire in dignity, even as Social Security and Medicare are under strain and threatened with cutbacks.

### I pledge my support for America’s Second Bill of Rights

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

OPEIU Local Union No. \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

## WHITE COLLAR

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

MICHAEL GOODWIN  
President

MARY MAHONEY  
Secretary-Treasurer



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## Letters to the Editor



OPEIU reprints letters from our members on various issues. We invite our readers to continue to share their opinions with us, whether in support of or in opposition to our own. Debate is healthy and welcomed in this union. Letters are edited for length only, not content. Remember: Anonymous letters will not be printed.

You can also reach us on the web: [www.opeiu.org](http://www.opeiu.org)

### Dear President Goodwin:

My sincere personal gratitude for all the help we received from OPEIU in our scope [of practice] battle in Albany. We couldn't have accomplished this without the support we received and we are thankful for that. We still have battles ahead

and I know we can count on continued support.

**Gary F. Stones, DPM**

President, New York State Podiatric  
Medical Association  
OPEIU Guild 45  
Massapequa, New York

### Dear Vice President Richard Lanigan:

Please accept our heartfelt appreciation for your time, effort, wisdom and caring about Local 50. We're trying to work on our issues, and will heed your advice as much as possible.

Aloha,

**K.C. Chung, RN**  
HNA/OPEIU Local 50  
Honolulu, Hawaii

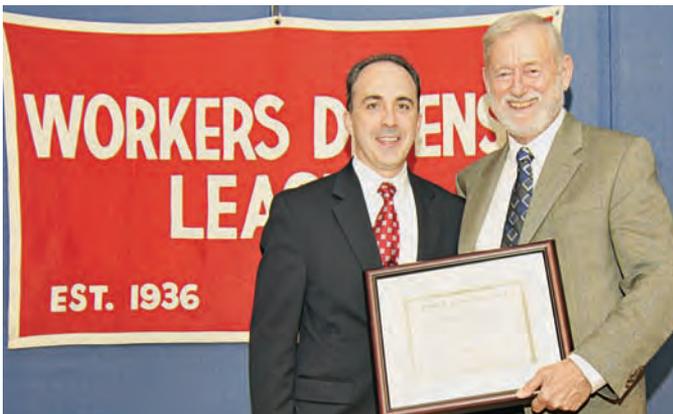
### Dear Editor:

We sent out requests to our members in our American Income Life (AIL) bargaining unit for improvements and/or changes to our CBA with AIL and you would not believe the people who answered back that they loved the towing service and wanted us to make sure they got more free towing. I let them know that perk comes through our International and it is only for OPEIU members and is not negotiated through our CBAs.

**Becky Turner**

International Vice President  
Region IV  
President, Local 277  
Fort Worth, Texas

## Goodwin Awarded for Distinguished Service



International President Michael Goodwin is awarded the David L. Clendenin Award for Distinguished Service to Labor's Rights by the Workers Defense League (WDL). The award was presented to Goodwin by the president of the New York City Central Labor Council, Vincent Alvarez (left), at the WDL's 76th Anniversary Celebration on May 24, 2012. Also honored were Robert Croghan and Sheila Gorsky, chairman and executive director respectively of the Organization of Staff Analysts, and Julie Kushner, director of the United Auto Workers, Region 9-A.

## Mary Short Sworn in as an OPEIU Vice President



At the OPEIU Executive Board meeting held June 25-29, 2012, in Portland, Maine, Mary Short is sworn in as an international vice president. Short, who is president of Local 32 in Union, New Jersey, fills a vacancy left on the board by the death of Allen Byron in February 2012.

## Merck Independent Union Votes to Affiliate

**M**erck Independent Union (MIU) in West Point, Pennsylvania, has overwhelmingly voted to join OPEIU. MIU represents administrative employees employed by Merck Sharp & Dohme, a pharmaceutical corporation.

The 287 members of MIU voted 96-4 in favor of affiliation with OPEIU and will now be known as MIU/OPEIU Local 1937, which celebrates the year in which MIU was founded. MIU recently ratified a five-year agreement with the company.

“Our affiliation with OPEIU will give us more strength in representing our members as part of the 108,000-member OPEIU and the support of the 13 million members of the AFL-CIO and organized labor,” said MIU President Dottie Miller. “We evaluated the pros and cons of affiliating with several unions and chose OPEIU as the best fit for our group.”

“We look forward to working with MIU to give them the additional leverage they need to carry out their work,” said International President Michael Goodwin. “With the help of Director of Organization and Field Services Kevin Kistler, OPEIU structured an affiliation agreement that preserves the autonomy of MIU.”



**Merck Independent Union Vice President John Edwards and President Dottie Miller, OPEIU International President Michael Goodwin and Director of Organization and Field Services Kevin Kistler sign the affiliation agreement.**

## Victory for New York Podiatrists!

**I**n a victory for members of OPEIU Guild 45/The First National Guild for Healthcare Providers of the Lower Extremity and the New York State Podiatric Medical Association (NYSPMA), New York Governor Andrew Cuomo has signed a measure that will expand the scope of practice to include essential ankle and foot care services by podiatrists.

The measure is a progressive public policy victory that will improve the health and quality of life for thousands of New Yorkers, particularly those living with diabetes. Early detection and treatment of diabetic-related lower extremity conditions will also help to contain Medicaid costs going forward.

Until now, New York was one of six states that significantly limit the practice of podiatry, together with Massachusetts, South Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi and Kansas. Advancements in the study of and medical training around podiatry, however, called for New York's definition of the practice to be expanded. Conventional medicine recognizes that many conditions of the foot originate in the soft tissue above the ankle bone. This is reflected in the training that is currently provided by the New York State College of Podiatric Medicine and in New York podiatric residency programs.

Through the efforts of Guild 45, the new scope of practice expansion makes the practice of podiatry now consistent with the

skills of the practitioners.

NYSPMA President Gary Stones, DPM and Executive Director Len Thaler congratulated Governor Cuomo for his leadership in this area and said, “We are pleased that New York will now join 44 states in refining the

definition of podiatry in order to reflect the medical education relating to the treatment of malfunctions in the foot. This refinement will improve patients' access to a fuller array of healthcare services and practitioners while assuring a greater quality of care.”



**International President Michael Goodwin meets with New York Governor Andrew Cuomo to discuss podiatry legislation.**

## North Central-Erie/Northeast Gets Members Involved a



At the North Central-Erie/Northeast Area Educational Conference held June 7-10, 2012 in Baltimore, Maryland, participants hold a lively discussion about arbitration and grievance handling. Pictured are Local 95 Secretary Sue Steinert and Trustee Heidi Holzl with Local 453 President Mark McLaughlin, Recording Secretary Donna Hill and Vice President David McSweeney.

International Vice President and ITPE/OPEIU Local 4873 President John Conley listens intently to a discussion about arbitration, contract interaction and discipline.



Local 112's Executive Director Mike Bodinsky, Esq. and President Janeen Davis listen attentively to conference instructors, including William Hockenberry, Esq., a labor arbitrator and mediator, and Michael LeRoy, a professor at the School of Labor and Employment Relations, and College of Law at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.



Local 391 Secretary-Treasurer Lynnett Davis shares her grievance and arbitration experiences with the other conference participants.

# Area Educational Conference and Sharing Experiences!



Eager participants raise their hands to answer a question.



Participants break into groups to complete exercises.



International Vice Presidents Patricia Priloh (Region II), Mary Short (Region II), Richard Lanigan (Region II) and Aaron Sanders (Region VI) provide an update of regional activities of the past year.

## Warning About Using Employer Computer, Email for Union Business

Many, if not most, OPEIU members have access to their employer's computer and email systems. And while many employers permit or tolerate the use of employer computers and email for personal matters, union members should not be using them for union business at any time.

Developments in monitoring software now enable employers to review in detail all computer activity that occurs on company computers and cell phones, on employee-owned computers using the company's wired or wireless network, and on cell phones using the employer's wireless network.

If you use the employer's computers or phones or networks, the software enables the employer to virtually stand over your shoulder and observe everything you do. Even if you use your own computer, or your own cell phone, as long as you use the employer's wired or wireless network, the employer can see it all and hear it all. Even if you use your own personal email address, as long as you use the employer's network to access that email, your supposedly private email is available to the employer.

In addition, even where monitoring software has not been installed, the employer can access an employee's company computer when the employee is not at work to review the employee's computer activity, and even reconstruct deleted documents or emails.

Almost all employer computer policies state that employees using the employer's system have no expectation of privacy. Depending on the provisions of the employer's policy, information obtained by the employer can be used as the basis for discipline and/or discharge of employees doing union business or personal business on the employer's system.

An even greater danger may lie where the employer does not discipline employees for conducting union business on the company system, but rather allows the union representative to use the company system without objection. This allows the employer to obtain confidential information about pending grievances, arbitration arguments, bargaining strategies, union finances and internal issues, without ever alerting the union that its communications have been intercepted.

Given the state of the monitoring technology, union members and representatives should not use employer computers and networks for union business. If the employer permits the union to use the company system for notices and other public communications to members, that is fine. Use of the

employer's system for anything beyond public communications, however, likely provides the employer with easy access to all the confidential affairs of the union. Play it safe. Use the computers and networks in the union office, the officers' or employees' homes, or other non-employer controlled areas.

### Remembering Dr. Annie B. Martin

OPEIU mourns the loss of Dr. Annie B. Martin, a devoted trade unionist and dear friend of OPEIU.

Dr. Martin was a former first vice president of the Black Trade Unionists Association and sat on the NAACP's National Board of Directors since 1993. She served 15 terms as the president of the New York City Branch of the NAACP, and served as co-chair of the NAACP Centennial Convention in New York City in 2009, among other prestigious positions and career accomplishments.

Dr. Martin assisted OPEIU with many organizing campaigns, and as recently as 2011 assisted with community outreach activities during Local 212's lockout at HealthNow New York (d.b.a. Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Western New York) in Buffalo, N.Y.

"Annie B. Martin's life was in inspiration to all of us at OPEIU and everyone in the labor movement," said International President Michael Goodwin. "To say 'she will be missed' is an understatement. She leaves a multitude of loving friends and innumerable strangers whose lives were better off because of the many good works performed by her and the community and health organizations she helped lead. We will miss her tremendously."



Dr. Annie B. Martin at the OPEIU Convention in June 2010 with Region III International Vice President Green P. Lewis Jr.



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Misc/Data Rates May Apply. Reply STOP to opt-out. Reply HELP or contact info@unionplus.org for help. Expect no more than 2msg/mo.



# Congratulations to OPEIU 2012 Scholarship Winners!

## Howard Coughlin Memorial Scholarship Fund

### Full-Time Winners

### Part-Time Winner



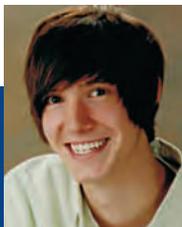
Alexander Hoffmann  
Local 11  
Region VI



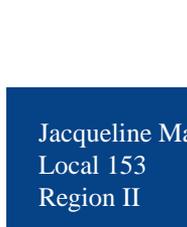
Emily Tillo  
Guild 45  
Region II



Jonathan Brock  
Local 459  
Region VII



Kevin Britz  
Local 12  
Region VII



Jacqueline Martinez  
Local 153  
Region II



Calum McClelland  
NAPAA/Guild 17  
Region III



Ambrose Plante  
Local 153  
Region II



Alan Cham  
Local 29  
Region V



Sarah Soneberg  
Local 153  
Region II



Brittany Yalamanchili  
Local 32  
Region II



Claire McCarthy  
Local 494  
Region II



Alannah Spencer  
Local 39  
Region VII



Ryan Nieves  
ITPE/Local 4873  
Region III



Kristal Holthaus  
Local 8  
Region VI



Judith Carter  
Local 9  
Region VII



Cassandra  
Beverly-Phelps  
Local 29  
Region V



## John Kelly Labor Studies Scholarship Fund

Visit [opeiu.org](http://opeiu.org) for more information about OPEIU scholarships.  
Click on Member Resources/Union Scholarships Link.

## Notice to All Local Unions Regarding Form 35

All Local Unions are reminded that they must comply with Article XIX, Section 10 of the OPEIU Constitution regarding procedures for check-off of contributions to the J.B. Moss Voice of the Electorate Fund (VOTE). Section 10 reads: “Effective July 1, 2010, all Local Unions in the United States shall ascertain whether any employer(s) with which the Local Union has a collective bargaining agreement allows its stockholders, executives, or administrative personnel to contribute to an employer Political Action Committee Fund (PAC) through payroll deduction. Any employer which allows any such payroll deduction must be required to permit employees in the bargaining unit to utilize the same procedures for check-off of contributions to the J.B. Moss Voice of the Electorate Fund.

In all collective bargaining negotiations which begin on or after July 1, 2010, each Local Union in the United States must vigorously pursue agreement with the employer(s) to a provision permitting check-off of contributions to the J.B. Moss Voice of the Electorate Fund.

**All Local Unions in the United States shall be required to use a standard form(s) approved by the International Union Executive Board for check-off of dues, fees and/or J.B. Moss Voice of the Electorate Fund contributions.”**

The International has prepared **Form 35** and made it available to all Local Unions for this purpose. OPEIU also urges all Local Unions to include a discussion of the J.B. Moss VOTE Fund on all membership meeting agendas, and to make Form 35 sign-up cards available at all meetings.

## Take Advantage of OPEIU Towing/Service Calls Benefit

OPEIU members are reporting great satisfaction with the OPEIU towing/service calls benefit provided free of charge to all members. Each member is entitled to up to two free towing/service calls per year, valued at up to \$100 each, for the member and any family member living in the same household.

The program, offered through Nation Safe Drivers (NSD), offers much more than towing! It also means 24-hour roadside assistance, meaning that there is always someone to speak to 24 hours a day, seven days a week if you are stranded along the side of the road. The service is available anywhere in the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico.

Emergency roadside service consists of the following:

*Mechanical first aid* — any service requiring a minor adjustment (exclusive of parts, to enable a disabled vehicle to proceed under its own power);

*Tire service* — changing an inflated spare from mount to wheel; and

*Battery service* — attempting to start a vehicle with a booster battery.

You are also entitled to delivery of an emergency supply of gasoline, oil or water and other accessories and/or supplies as may be required and available. Cost of materials delivered are not included in the service, and shall be paid for by the member.

OPEIU members are also entitled to locksmith/lockout service. If your keys are locked in the vehicle, you can call the dispatch service for assistance. If for any reason dispatch service cannot be provided, the member may use the nearest locksmith for service and the program will reimburse the member up to \$25.

To utilize the service, you must call the NSD towing number and provide your membership number, producer code and plan letter. All of this information, including the phone number and your individual membership number, is provided on your OPEIU Perks/NSD Membership Benefits card.

If you don't have a benefits card, contact your Local Union immediately.

## Who Said It?

“Only a fool would try to deprive working men and women of the right to join the union of their choice.”

- A. Bill Clinton
- B. Dwight Eisenhower
- C. Mitt Romney
- D. Franklin Roosevelt
- E. Samuel Gompers

**Answer:** B. President Dwight Eisenhower, in a speech to the American Federation of Labor, New York City, September 17, 1952

## OPEIU Member Graduates from NLC



Local 2 member Patrick Michael McAnnany was among the recent 2012 graduates of the National Labor College (NLC), receiving his degree in Labor Education. NLC Dean Daniel Katz, Ph.D., presents McAnnany (right) with his diploma at the graduation ceremony on June 23, 2012.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**OPEIU 26th Convention**

Arrival Date: Sunday, June 2, 2013

Departure Date: Friday, June 7, 2013

Hilton San Diego Bayfront

San Diego, California

## Local Union News

### McLaren RNs Reach Agreement After ULPs Upheld

Registered Nurses at McLaren of Greater Lansing (MGL), formerly Ingham Regional Medical Center, have a new contract thanks to hard bargaining and the pressure of unfair labor practice (ULP) charges. The bargaining for this agreement took several twists and turns, according to International Vice President and Local 459 Service Representative Joseph Marutiak, but was eventually approved by a vote of 97 percent in favor.

In November 2011, a tentative agreement was reached on a contract that contained a long series of concessions. The hospital had been going through a number of bad months, but had turned the corner and was making small profits again. That agreement was voted down by the RN membership; they did not expect big raises, but felt the concessions went too far.

“Rather than listening to their members, most of that RN bargaining team resigned their positions and pursued an ill-fated attempt to decertify Local 459 and form their own union,” said Marutiak. “That effort was overwhelmingly rejected by the RNs in an NLRB conducted election in February 2012.”

After the tentative agreement was rejected, a new bargaining team was selected that took a much different approach. According to Marutiak, they used the assistance of Local 459 service representatives and attorneys. They showed they were willing to bargain no matter how long it took to reach a fair agreement. In March, management declared the negotiations were at an impasse and unilaterally implemented their proposals on paid time off, distribution of extra hours, days off, attendance bonus and ending the defined benefit pension plan some employees were still getting. An employer can legally implement their proposals if further negotiations are fruitless.

Local 459 filed unfair labor practice charges against the hospital arguing that there was no valid impasse. Local 459 introduced evidence that the union bargaining team continued to make significant movement in its proposals, that management refused to meet for nearly a month, that the hospital conditioned further bargaining on the mediator passing judgment on the union’s proposals, and that the hospital insisted that in order to agree to a new contract, the union had to withdraw its previous unfair labor charges. The NLRB found that this

evidence did indeed show that no impasse existed and that the unilateral changes were illegal.

On May 30, the NLRB announced that, unless McLaren reached a settlement with Local 459, it would start prosecuting McLaren for violating federal labor law. If successful, the NLRB would have required McLaren to undo all of its illegal changes, including restoring pension benefits to many employees. Faced with this, negotiations resumed and the new agreement was reached. It does not contain many of the concessions in the rejected tentative agreement and contains additional raises.

“The new contract does eliminate the defined benefits plan for the employees who were still getting it, but does not contain the other concessions the hospital wanted,” said Marutiak. “It gave all employees a 1.5 percent signing bonus, gave a bonus of 2 percent to topped out employees this year, gives a 2 percent raise to all employees next year and another 2 percent raise the following year. This time, the tentative agreement was approved by the membership by a vote of 216 to 7.”

The RN team was comprised of Deborah Disler, Cindy Dole, Deborah Douglass, Christopher Kidd, Julie Murray, Jo Ellyn Steele, Anna Thomas and Theresa Wing. They were assisted by Service Representatives Jeffrey Fleming and Marutiak, and by attorney Tina Pappas.



**Local 459’s RN team, (front row) Jo Ellyn Steele, Deborah Disler, Chief Steward Cindy Dole, (back row) Anna Thomas, Chris Kidd, Julie Murray and Theresa Wing.**

### FCT Members at Farrell Will Vote for OPEIU Representation!

Local 153 is pleased to report that the New York State Public Employment Relations Board (NYSPERB) has ruled in OPEIU’s favor and an election will go forward for representation of faculty at Monsignor Farrell High School in Staten Island, New York.

In his decision, the Administrative Law Judge stated that, “notwithstanding the fact that the school was not yet an independent entity when Local 153 filed its petition, it was clearly anticipated by the employees and the employer that this would in fact be

the case. The employees, by signing authorization cards, had demonstrated an interest in being represented by Local 153.”

As reported in the last issue of *White Collar*, an impartial umpire ruled in favor of the Federation of Catholic Teachers (FCT), an affiliate of Local 153, by dismissing an Article XX case brought by the Laborers’ International Union of North America (LIUNA) as untimely. The dispute arose after the FCT, led by President Pat Gabriel, filed a petition with NYSPERB seeking certifica-

tion at Monsignor Farrell in 2009. For many years, the faculty had been represented by the LIUNA-affiliated Lay Faculty Association.

“This has been a four-year odyssey to get these teachers an election, and now we’re at the point that the state says there will be an election, and we’re confident that they will choose to be represented by the FCT,” said International Vice President and Local 153 Secretary-Treasurer Richard Lanigan. He reports that the union has more than 90 percent support within the bargaining unit.



Printed in USA

AFL-CIO-CLC



## Local Union News

### Northern California Taxi Union Affiliates with Local 29



Taxi drivers in Sacramento, California, belong to numerous independent associations. After months of review, Local 29, with the assistance of the International Union, entered into an affiliation agreement with taxi drivers from more than one association. The newly formed affiliation is now known as the Northern California Taxi Union (NCTU), providing a labor voice for these professional taxi drivers. Local 29 member Bill Camp was instrumental in the affiliation process. NCTU's Senior Vice President Maheshinder Sinah (sunglasses), Kazmin Zaidi (holding agreement) and General Secretary Bhajan Bariana (third from right, standing) are pictured with International Vice President and Local 29 President Tamara Rubyn (blue shirt). Also pictured are members of the NCTU and members from the Sacramento Labor Council celebrating the signing of the affiliation.

### Local 11 Has New Union Hall!



International President Michael Goodwin attends the ribbon-cutting ceremony of Local 11's new office and union hall in Vancouver, Washington, on July 21, 2012. Pictured are: (left to right) Local 11 Union Representative Rick Wilson, Union Representative Maureen Colvin, Hillary DeVore (daughter of Vice President Matt DeVore), Goodwin, Executive Assistant Helen Gourde, Executive Secretary-Treasurer Michael Richards, President Marcia Williams, Trustee Lori Ricketts and Vice President Matt DeVore.