President Richard Lanigan and Secretary-Treasurer Mary Mahoney were reelected Monday by acclamation to lead OPEIU for the next four years. Excitement swept through the hall as Lanigan and Mahoney accepted the delegates’ congratulations.

In his keynote address, Lanigan shared the state of the union, including OPEIU’s renewed commitment to organizing. “OPEIU is a resurgent union, and as our convention theme says, we’re on the move,” Lanigan said. “Our goal is to build an inclusive, effective and strong organization. We’re building an organization that meets the moment to support members and organize new groups, while at the same time developing new leaders to take the work forward.

“I’m humbled by the trust you’ve put in us and our team over the last several years,” he said. “I am confident if we work together, we can win better working conditions for the people we represent and those we hope to,” he concluded.

“Mary Mahoney represents all that is good about the labor movement,” said International Vice President Marianne Giordano when nominating Mahoney, who thanked the delegates for their support.
Monday’s session featured a tribute to the many brave OPEIU members who gave their all and sacrificed so much during the pandemic. Health care professionals, transportation workers, credit union employees, search and rescue helicopter pilots, nonprofit workers and many others risked their health and their lives to stay on the front line and keep our nation running.

Convention delegates unanimously passed a resolution honoring these Covid-19 heroes, formally thanking them for their service and calling for the negotiation of retroactive compensation and benefits, especially with employers who earned record profits at the expense of these dedicated, hardworking members.

Pictured are some of the many OPEIU members who served on the front lines of the Covid-19 pandemic. Clockwise, from left, Local 2 member Tanya Chou sews masks in the early days before PPE was widely available; Local 50 nurses at Queen’s Medical Center in Honolulu treat the sick; and Local 6 members at the Massachusetts Trial Court deliver food assistance to those in need.
Educational Conference Explores Inclusivity

OPEIU delegates gathered on Sunday at the educational conference to explore what it means to be a diverse, equitable and inclusive union.

The OPEIU Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice Committee said the connected fights for social, economic, racial and gender justice are all worker struggles, and to be our most powerful selves, unions must do the work to eradicate systems of oppression. OPEIU is strongly committed to this work.

‘NOT YOUR GRANDDAD’S LABOR MOVEMENT’

AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler told delegates they are ready to meet the challenges posed to professional employees by a changing economy and the impact of technology, artificial intelligence and corporate greed.

The rise of new technologies is “a wake-up call for professional workers,” she said. “They’re coming for writers. They’re coming for nurses. Even lawyers. They’re going to come for white-collar jobs and they will not stop. It’s up to us to take a stand.”

One year ago today, Shuler was elected by acclamation to the AFL-CIO presidency, becoming the first woman to hold the post. “I can’t think of a better place to spend my one-year anniversary than here with my OPEIU family,” she said. “And I can’t find a better team, a better family, to fight alongside than OPEIU.”

Daniel Bauder Welcomes OPEIU to Philly

Daniel P. Bauder, president of the Philadelphia AFL-CIO, welcomed delegates to his city, and echoed many of our convention themes. He spoke of the importance of organizing, the value of a democratic union and the power of solidarity between workers in various industries across the United States.

“We can’t lose sight of what our rights are and how far we’ve come, or they’ll take them away from us,” Bauder said. He recognized the importance of OPEIU’s ongoing organizing campaign among resident assistants at the University of Pennsylvania and pledged to help mobilize the city’s labor movement to support the fight for a union and a strong first contract.

“We’re going to be there every step of the way to show Penn and every other employer in Philadelphia that Philly is a union town and we aren’t going to let them take it from us,” he said.
TODAY’S HIGHLIGHTS

Today we will dig deep into our convention theme, OPEIU On the Move, and hear how OPEIU local unions are organizing like never before in new and emerging industries.

Ellen Cassedy, author of the book Working 9 to 5: A Women’s Movement, a Labor Union and the Iconic Movie, will join us to discuss OPEIU members’ role in the movement that changed office work forever in the 1970s and beyond.

Ms. Cassedy will also be signing copies of her book, available for purchase at a discounted price of $20.

Looking for Something to Do Tonight?

The City Info icon on the OPEIU Convention app has great suggestions if you are looking for a place to grab a bite to eat or want to do a little sightseeing. Check it out!

Fun Fact!

The Liberty Bell, a well-known symbol of our democracy, was originally called the State House Bell.

The bell was housed in the Pennsylvania State House, which was later renamed Independence Hall. When Independence Hall was renamed, so was the Liberty Bell!

And did you know if the famous cracked bell rang it would be in E-flat? You might not be able to hear it, but you can see the bell by visiting Independence National Historical Park, 526 Market Street.

Temple University Leads the Way!

Philadelphia’s Temple University is a longtime leader in professional education, among the nation’s largest educators in the combined fields of dentistry, law, medicine, pharmacy and podiatry.

Temple University School of Podiatric Medicine (TUSPM) is led by John A. Mattiacci, DPM, who also serves as president of the First National Guild for Healthcare Providers of the Lower Extremity/OPEIU Guild 45. The School of Podiatric Medicine is fully integrated with a large, comprehensive university health system in Philadelphia. The largest podiatric medical treatment facility anywhere, the Foot and Ankle Institute at TUSPM has more than 40,000 patient visits annually.