

DELEGATE

RICHARD LANIGAN
PRESIDENT



MARY MAHONEY
SECRETARY-TREASURER

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 2023

ORGANIZING AND ON THE MOVE!

Among Tuesday's highlights was a panel discussion of local unions' organizing and first contract successes in new and emerging industries, including tech, higher education, health care and nonprofits. We heard how locals are overcoming challenges to win changes in the workplace and grow our movement through collective action, and how the OPEIU Apprentice Organizer Program is helping to make those successes a reality. A series of resolutions reaffirming OPEIU's commitment to organizing were considered and adopted by the delegation.

Panelists Emily Citraro (Local 29), Leah Derr (Local 40), Mike Bloomberg (Local 12), Anthony Trujilo (Local 251), Ruby Clarke (Local 153) and Dannel Jurado (Local 153) shared with delegates the dynamics of their respective union campaigns. They shared the challenges they faced while organizing and bargaining a first contract, why they first contacted OPEIU for assistance and how a union contract transformed their lives and those of their co-workers. OPEIU Organizing Director Brandon Nessen facilitated the informative discussion.



OPEIU’S ROLE IN THE 9 TO 5 MOVEMENT

Ellen Cassedy, author of *9 to 5: A Women’s Movement, a Labor Union and the Iconic Movie*, shared a look at the experience of female office workers in 1970s Boston who inspired change with a call for better pay, more opportunities and an end to sexual harassment.



“Women all over the country still have the same problems of harassment, low pay, lack of promotion opportunities and respect at work,” Cassedy said. Things are changing from the days the movie *9 to 5* was made in 1980, however, and “issues that used to be considered private matters are now matters of corporate, government and union policy,” she noted.

Even though progress has been made, the fight for equality in the workplace continues. “It can be harder to be a worker today than 50 years ago,” Cassedy said. “Some people are working two or three jobs to put food on the table.

“The gender gap in pay is stuck at 82 percent, and it’s much worse for women of color,” Cassedy continued. The labor movement can make a difference in closing that gap. “Your union is doing great work around the country,” she said, encouraging OPEIU members to keep working toward full equality for all.

To illustrate the impact of the movement – and how far we still must go to achieve equality in the workplace – Cassedy asked delegates to share stories of “bad bosses” they had encountered through their career. She then read a selection of these responses, which were greeted with a chorus of loud boos from the floor.

In 2021, OPEIU hosted a virtual screening of the documentary, *9 to 5: The Making of a Movement*, which included a discussion with the movie’s Oscar-winning directors, Julia Reichert and Steven Bognar. If you have not had a chance to see this terrific film, it is currently streaming on Netflix.

International Vice President and Local 42 President Lisa Blake kicked off the morning with a discussion about the Coalition of Union Women (CLUW) and the excellent work they are doing to ensure equality for all working women.



Cruising the Delaware River in Style

Convention delegates and guests had a great time cruising the Delaware River aboard the Spirit of Philadelphia on Monday evening. The dance floor was full the entire evening!

OPEIU VICE PRESIDENTS ELECTED

Region I: Steve Pettie

Region II: John Mattiacci, DPM; Mary Short;
Linda Bridges; Nick Galipeau; Cara Madarese

Region III: Dennis R. Arrington; Fredricka Green

Region IV: Tyler Turner

Region V: Tamara R. Rubyn; Marianne Giordano

Region VI: Suzanne Mode

Region VIII: Rosalee Agas-Yuu

In Region VII, three candidates were nominated for two seats — Sharon Taylor, Peter Neu and Dina Carlisle. An election will be held today.

Vice presidents for diversity will be nominated today, with an election held Thursday, if necessary.

Local Unions Recognized for Organizing Achievement

Local 153 in New York was awarded the 2022 **Henderson B. Douglas Organizing Award** for its groundbreaking work organizing in higher education, with undergraduate campaigns at Wesleyan University, Barnard College and Tufts University.

The 2021 award was presented to Local 251 in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in recognition of its commitment to organizing the Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project, Proyecto Solidaridad. The 2020 award was given to Local 12 in Roseville, Minnesota, for its outstanding organizing campaigns at Augsburg University and numerous Minnesota-based nonprofit organizations.

The Douglas Award is given each year to a local union and its organizers or representatives who organized the most people into their local or the International that year.



Local 153 in New York receives the 2022 Henderson B. Douglas Organizing Award.



Local 2, Silver Spring, Maryland, receives the Gold Organizing Award.



ITPEU/OPEIU Local 4873 in Savannah, Georgia, receives the Silver Organizing Award.



Local 174 in Burbank, California, receives the Bronze Organizing Award.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

Today, organizer and author Jane McAlevey will tackle the big organizing questions of the day, as well as share insights from her book, "Rules to Win By," a detailed look at power and the importance of high member participation at the bargaining table.



JANE McALEVEY

With decades of organizing experience and a series of impactful books published, McAlevey has helped place member engagement and persistent organizing at the forefront of contemporary union strategy.



RUSSELL GITTLEN

The convention will also be joined by Russell Gittlen, president of Guide Dogs of America, an organization that recently affiliated with Local 30 in San Diego. Delegates will hear about this organization's work to transform lives through partnerships with service dogs. Guide Dogs of America breeds, raises and trains guide dogs for individuals who are blind/visually impaired and service dogs for veterans and children with autism. They also place facility dogs with professionals in hospitals, schools and courtrooms.

Tonight's Event

Gather no later than 7:15 p.m. at the hotel's N. 17th Street entrance to board transportation for an exciting night tour of Philadelphia. Remember to bring your tickets, as they will be needed to board.

Upon your return to the hotel at approximately 9:30 p.m., dessert will be served in the Liberty Ballroom Foyer. Do not forget your ticket!



Fun Fact!

Veterans Stadium, where the Philadelphia Eagles played until 2003, had a courtroom in its basement to deal with rowdy fans.