

DELEGATE

RICHARD LANIGAN
PRESIDENT



MARY MAHONEY
SECRETARY-TREASURER

FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 2023

BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE UNION

Moments after passing a sweeping resolution recommitting OPEIU to the cause of racial and social justice unionism, delegates heard the experiences of Dr. Hilario Benzon, the associate director of the Human and Civil Rights Department of the National Education Association. Dr. Benzon works to build inclusive unions and applauded commitments made by OPEIU delegates on Thursday.

“A diverse and inclusive labor movement is essential to represent workers in the workplaces of the future,” Dr. Benzon said to applause.

He spoke about his personal experience and how a single person — a public school teacher — changed his life. “I am literally and figuratively here because of the passion and grace of one teacher,” Dr. Benzon said. Recognizing the impact a single person can have is critical to building the type of union OPEIU is building.

Visit opeiu.org, Member Resources, and click on the 29th OPEIU Convention link to see the adopted resolution, as well as all resolutions, policy statements, photos and videos from the convention.



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OPEIU ON THE MOVE



“We Can and We Will Win!”

Shuo Zhang, a Writers Guild of America-West member, detailed her union’s fight for a fair contract with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers – a common fight shared by all working people who seek fair compensation for their work and a sense of dignity and respect on the job. She assured delegates, however, her fellow members were united and “can and will win” the strike.

She noted the interconnected struggles between her 11,500 striking union siblings at WGA and the issues OPEIU members are facing at work every day. Zhang said employers across industries are using the same tactics and technology to weaken workers’ bargaining power and, accordingly, living standards.

“When they say ‘disrupting industry,’ they mean ‘destroying livelihoods,’” Zhang said. “We’ve seen Uber and Lyft destroy the taxi industry, the internet destroy print journalism, Amazon destroy retail and bookstores, and streaming services destroy musicians’ ability to make a living.”

Zhang, a strike captain, noted the support showed by other unions and union members on the picket line has kept rank-and-file writers energized and motivated. OPEIU made a \$10,000 contribution in support of WGA’s righteous fight for a fair contract.





Newly Elected OPEIU Executive Board



SCENES FROM THE 29TH CONVENTION

