

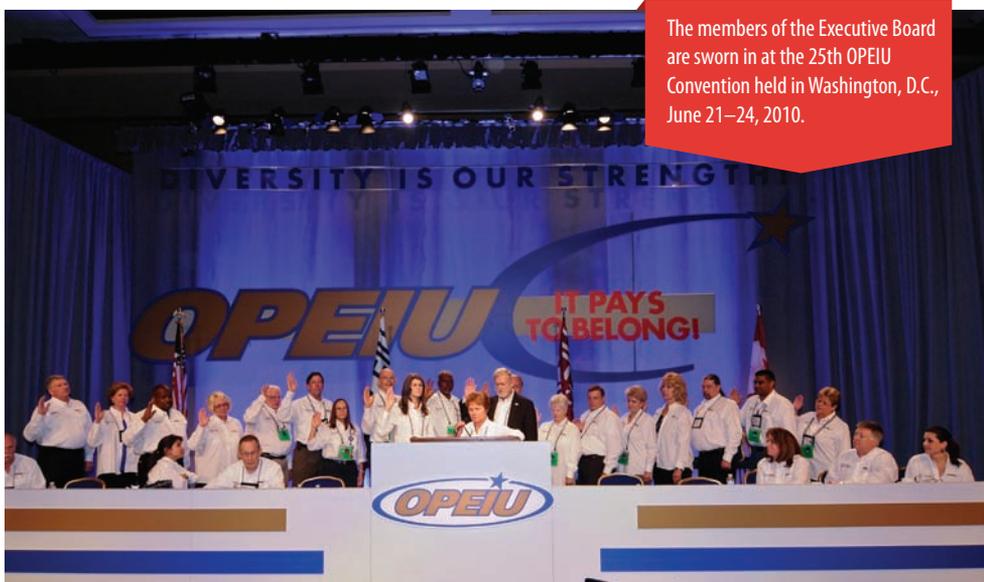


WHITE COLLAR

Work Connects Us All!

Special Issue

Celebrating the 26th OPEIU Convention



The members of the Executive Board are sworn in at the 25th OPEIU Convention held in Washington, D.C., June 21–24, 2010.

Special Supplement

It's convention time once again, and representatives from Local Unions throughout the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico are gathering in San Diego, California, on June 3–6, 2013, to attend the 26th OPEIU Convention, with the theme "Work Connects Us All!" Complete coverage of the 2013 convention will appear in the next *White Collar*, but in the meantime, go to page 8 for the Special Supplement to learn all about the elected officers and staff who lead your International Union.

Taxi Drivers' 60-Day Strike Ends in Victory!

The taxi drivers employed by Yellow Checker Star Transportation (YCS) in Las Vegas have settled their 60-day strike, have a new contract and are back to work. See page 3 for details about this historic strike, the longest ever in the Las Vegas taxi industry.



Contract signing on May 2, 2013, at YCS headquarters in Las Vegas.

Pictured left to right (standing) are Industrial, Technical and Professional Employees Union (ITPEU)/OPEIU Local 4873 Representative T. Ruthie Jones, Chief Steward Sam Moffitt, YCS Chief Operating Officer William Shranko, Bargaining Committee members Dustin Qualls and Negash Ademe, OPEIU President Michael Goodwin and Director of Organization and Field Services Kevin Kistler. Seated are ITPEU President Dennis R. Arrington, OPEIU Senior International Representative Paul Bohelski and (back to camera) International Representative Ed Darcy Jr.

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White Collar
has a new look.
Check it out!



OPEIU Leaders

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International President



Mary Mahoney
Secretary-Treasurer

Vice Presidents



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Region V



Greg Blackman
Region III



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Region III



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Region V



Aaron Sanders
Region VII



Mary Short
Region II



Becky Turner
Region IV



Taxi Drivers Win 60-Day Strike at Yellow Checker Star Transportation!

Taxi drivers represented by the Industrial, Technical and Professional Employees Union (ITPEU)/OPEIU Local 4873 have won their 60-day strike at Yellow Checker Star Transportation (YCS) in Las Vegas, Nevada. The new contract includes an increase in the drivers' share of the meter, reinstatement of eligibility for the four-day workweek of 12 hours per day and 10-hours-per-day shifts, increases in annual bonuses, and other benefits. The contract was signed at a ceremony at YCS headquarters on May 2, 2013.

In all, the union negotiated 16 wage and benefit changes to the collective bargaining agreement.

"I'm extremely proud of the fact that we have the loyal support of so many drivers, all of whom are the heart and soul of this struggle," said International President Michael Goodwin. "These drivers, although enduring a great deal of personal hardship, stood together and proved that through solidarity and collective bargaining, workers can improve their quality of life."

"The drivers stood strong during a very difficult strike, and now have a contract that brings the 1,800 drivers employed by YCS the respect and dignity they deserve," said ITPEU/OPEIU Local 4873 President Dennis R. Arrington. "We fought back against the companies' attempts to force senior drivers to work five or six days per week, at 60 and 72 hours. And all the striking drivers started to return to work on Thursday, May 2."

OPEIU gratefully acknowledges the support of the International Association of Machinists (IAM), Culinary Workers Union Local 226/ UNITEHERE, National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC), Seafarers International Union (SIU), International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT), Communication Workers of America (CWA), California School Employees Association

(CSEA), Transportation Communication Union (TCU) and American Income Life Insurance Company (AIL) for their generous support and counsel during this prolonged strike.

Appreciation is also given to International President Emeritus Doug Dority of the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) and to Nevada State AFL-CIO Executive Secretary-Treasurer Danny Thompson for their participation, support and counsel during the strike.

OPEIU also appreciates that several organizations, including CWA, Building and Construction Trades Department (BCTD), AFSCME, American Federation of School Administrators (AFSA), American Federation of Teachers (AFT), IATSE, Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) and the Iron Workers, sent letters in support of the union to YCS.

Finally, OPEIU appreciates the assistance of the United Labor Agency of Nevada (ULAN), which facilitated the distribution of hardship funds to striking drivers.

The 60-day strike began on March 3, 2013, and ended on May 1, 2013.





By Michael Goodwin
International President

Workers Fight Back

Since our last convention in 2010, OPEIU members have been involved in many battles with government and employers across the United States at a pace not seen in several years.

Workers have fought back against employer attempts to take away their right to a living wage, cut benefits and demand increased work hours. The employers also demanded changes in collective bargaining agreements to outsource work to nonunion locations. In some situations, the union won and in other situations, the union is still fighting.

In 2011, Governor Scott Walker of Wisconsin initiated legislation that took away the right of public employees to collectively bargain. The majority of citizens in the state are outraged as the living standards and quality of life of their friends and neighbors diminish. Fortunately, in America we have the freedom to respond to such callous acts, and the citizens of Wisconsin will remember when Governor Walker seeks reelection in 2014. They will also remember the members of the legislature who went along with his heinous plans, and the public is optimistic that there will be a radical change in government next year.

In Ohio, Governor John Kasich took on public employees' right to bargain collectively and was repelled by a resolute citizenry who upset his plan by referendum. In Indiana, Governor Mitch Daniels led the effort to pass a "right-to-work" law that lessens the power of unions to represent workers and lowers wage and benefit standards. In Michigan, Governor Rick

Snyder signed a right-to-work law, which became effective March 28, 2013, and the full impact is yet to be seen.

OPEIU members have been affected in all these states. These anti-worker governors and legislators who caused these problems will pay the price at the polls as workers fight back. This sad chapter in American history will not end here — there will be many opportunities to reverse these horrific actions and restore the rights granted to workers in 1935 with the passage of the National Labor Relations Act. To paraphrase the famous General Douglas MacArthur, "We shall return."

“The majority of citizens in the state are outraged as the living standards and quality of life of their friends and neighbors diminish.”

Members have also been involved in two major strikes and a lockout involving thousands of workers, and the strike at the American Red Cross has been rotating for different periods over five years. Led by Local 459's Joe Marutiak and Lance Rhines, the union has refused to agree to a contract that lowers safety standards and does little to improve wages and working conditions.

In Buffalo, New York, Local 212 fought against the lockout by Healthcare Now (d.b.a. Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Western New York) for 12 weeks to beat back an employer proposal to outsource good-paying union jobs to lower-paying nonunion locations. The union pulled out all of the stops and engaged the entire community in the fight with a grassroots effort throughout the city. They also had the full support of the International Union, the New York State AFL-CIO and the unions in Buffalo. With the support of these groups and the grassroots efforts of the workers, the employer finally withdrew its union-busting proposal and the workers returned to work with a hard-won victory.

“The fight at YCS was 'David versus Goliath...'"

The biggest fight, and the most challenging, came at Yellow Checker Star Transportation (YCS) in Las Vegas, Nevada, when the employer refused to negotiate an increase in the taxi drivers' share of the meter, demanded elimination of the drivers' 48-hour/four-day workweek, and replaced it with an employer right to require drivers to work 60 and 72 hours a week over five or six days and elimination of 10-hour shifts in favor of all 12-hour shifts. The fight at YCS was "David versus Goliath," and ITPEU/OPEIU Local 4873 and their President, Dennis R. Arrington, were up for the challenge. The employer relied on Nevada's right-to-work law to weaken the union, believing the union had minimal support. But they were wrong, as a majority of the drivers supported the union. The drivers were fighting for an increase in the share of the meter and the right to retain their 48-hour/four-day workweek and their 10-hour shifts.



The strike began on March 3 and lasted for 60 days until May 1, 2013, when the employer reluctantly agreed to an increase in the drivers' share of the meter and to withdraw its demands for a longer workday and workweek!

The strike was the longest in the history of the taxi industry in Las Vegas and was the first time ever that the company agreed to an increase in the drivers' share of the meter! The union won!

The union will continue to give its full support as workers fight back!

OPEIU Bargains First Helicopter Mechanics Contract

OPEIU has bargained its first-ever contract for helicopter mechanics, which provides a 14 percent wage increase over three years, a \$3,500 ratification bonus and major improvements in extended tour pay rates. The new unit will be known as Directly Affiliated Group (DAG) 403, Global Helicopter Engineers Association (GHEA).

The contract covers 191 aviation mechanical engineers (AME) employed by CHC Global and working in 18 countries, including Tanzania, Nigeria, Thailand and China. The company is based in Vancouver, Canada, and is owned by a private equity firm in Greenwich, Connecticut. Bargaining took place in Dallas, Texas, where the company's human resources department is located.

The contract was bargained in only seven days, according to OPEIU Director of Organization and Field Services Kevin Kistler, who led the bargaining. The bargaining committee was comprised of engineers Jay Minor and Yvon Collin, who were assisted by International Representative and Assistant to the President Paul Huertas. The contract is pending member ratification, which was scheduled to take place as this issue went to press.



Pictured left to right are GHEA Bargaining Committee Members Yvon Collin and Jay Minor, CHC Vice President of Maintenance and Technical Services Ray Bennett, Director of Accident Prevention and Flight Safety Dave Boyle, CHC Human Resources Director Christa Flannagan, CHC Director of Global Labour Relations Victoria Every, CHC Lead Negotiator Richard Smith and OPEIU International Representative and Assistant to the President Paul Huertas.

WHITE COLLAR

Official Organ of
OFFICE AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES
INTERNATIONAL UNION
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MICHAEL GOODWIN
President

MARY MAHONEY
Secretary-Treasurer



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An Evening with President Clinton



At a fundraiser held March 13, 2013, to support Terry McAuliffe's campaign for governor of Virginia, International President Michael Goodwin, Secretary-Treasurer Mary Mahoney and Director of Organization and Field Services Kevin Kistler speak with former President Bill Clinton.



Pictured after the 306-6 vote to merge Local 212 with Local 153 are (front row, left to right) Local 212 Secretary Sabrina Haynie Young, Trustee Janice Siegel, Trustee Roxann Lawrence, President Caroline Muszynski, Board Member Lynn Brooks, Board Member Brenda St. John, (back row) Vice President Chanelle Goode, Local 153 Secretary-Treasurer Richard Lanigan, Business Representative Mario Seneca, Board Member Luis Rodriguez, Secretary-Trustee Kathy Cohen and Board Member Renee Woelfel. Not pictured are Board Member Joan Schrier and Trustee Mary Taylor.

Local 212 Members Vote to Merge with Local 153

On March 21, 2013, the members of Local 212 in Buffalo, New York, voted overwhelmingly to merge with their sister Local 153, which is based in New York City.

“The merger came at a time when Local 212 was experiencing a declining membership,” said Local 212 President Caroline Muszynski. “We realized we could not afford to have a business representative on staff to service our members, and felt we could grow as a Local Union and stay strong in the Western New York area with a much bigger and stronger unit.

“We owed this to our sisters and brothers in Local 212, as they have been supporting us for 65 years,” Muszynski continued. “The members deserve to be in a strong union that will fight for better wages, health insurance and job security.”

Local 212 represents office and clerical employees at nine

different employers, including Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Western New York, and has a membership base of approximately 500 members. Local 153 represents workers at the New York Stock Exchange, Emblem Health, Yankee Stadium and the Archdiocese of New York, among many other employers. Local 153 has approximately 16,000 members and will bring the members of Local 212 additional clout in representation and many new benefits and services.

“We owed this to our sisters and brothers in Local 212, as they have been supporting us for 65 years.”

Remembering MLK in Memphis

By Lisa Blake, President, Local 42, Farmington Hills, Michigan

I had the pleasure and honor of attending, at the request of International President Michael Goodwin, the 45th anniversary event honoring the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. held by AFSCME Local 1733 in Memphis, Tennessee. The event, held April 3–4, 2013, brought union members from across the nation to remember the work of Dr. King.

Many of you may recall that Dr. King was killed 45 years ago when he answered the call to help the striking sanitation workers of AFSCME Local 1733. These union members had been disrespected and mistreated by management. Their working conditions



OPEIU Leadership Remembers

Cesar Chavez



Lisa Blake attends the AFSCME Local 1733 Martin Luther King Jr. anniversary event in Memphis, Tennessee, held April 3–4, 2013.



were deplorable. The fact that they were talked down to and called “boys” on a daily basis, as well as the death of two of their co-workers, caused them to say “enough!”

Dr. King was told not to come to Memphis, but he did. Although he was later killed, his march with these sanitation workers was not in vain because they prevailed and received a contract and recognition as men. Their slogan, “I Am a Man,” was part of the celebration held in Memphis.

I attended an event held at the Mason Temple Church of God in Christ, where Dr. King’s son, Martin Luther King III, gave a keynote

speech. He told us that we must keep the dream alive and continue as union workers and organized labor to fight for the rights and dignity of all Americans. He also said that the labor movement has always advocated for those who are in need.

“Attending the event was uplifting and renewed my understanding of the importance of our J.B. Moss Voice of the Electorate (VOTE) Fund contributions.”

There were also speeches from the presidents of both the NAACP and the National Organization for Women (NOW) who asked organized labor to not forget the power of collective bargaining and an informed membership.

The following day, there was a march from the AFSCME Local 1733 office to the National Civil Rights Museum, which is located at the Lorraine Motel where Dr. King was shot and killed. The city of Memphis renamed a street in honor of the AFSCME Local 1733 sanitation strikers.

Attending the event was uplifting and renewed my understanding of the importance of our J.B. Moss Voice of the Electorate (VOTE) Fund contributions. Now more than ever, OPEIU members need to make VOTE contributions so that our International Union can continue the good fight for organized labor and support those elected officials who support working people.



The OPEIU Executive Board made a visit to the United Farm Workers of America (UFW) headquarters in Keene, California, on April 6, 2013, to remember UFW’s Founder and first President, Cesar Chavez, on the 20th anniversary of his death.

At a dinner held that evening, UFW President Arturo Rodriguez presented International President Michael Goodwin with a memorial plaque with photos that capture the day - October 8, 2012 - that the UFW headquarters and Chavez’s gravesite, known as La Paz, became a national monument. That event, which featured remarks by President Obama, drew thousands of farmworkers and supporters and recognized the great contribution made by Chavez to working people in the United States. At the dinner, OPEIU made a contribution of \$25,000 to UFW to help them continue Chavez’s legacy.

On April 7, the Executive Board traveled to Los Angeles to attend a special Mass held at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels commemorating the anniversary of Chavez’s death.



For Nearly Seven Decades, Work Connects Us All!

We are nurses, engineers, computer programmers, administrative assistants, librarians, accountants and clerks. We work in universities, hospitals, offices, insurance companies, shipping firms, county and city government offices, and manufacturing. We are healthcare professionals, podiatrists, hypnotists, insurance agents, teachers, helicopter pilots, umpires, clinical social workers and many others. We are a diverse group, and we are members of the Office and Professional Employees International Union.

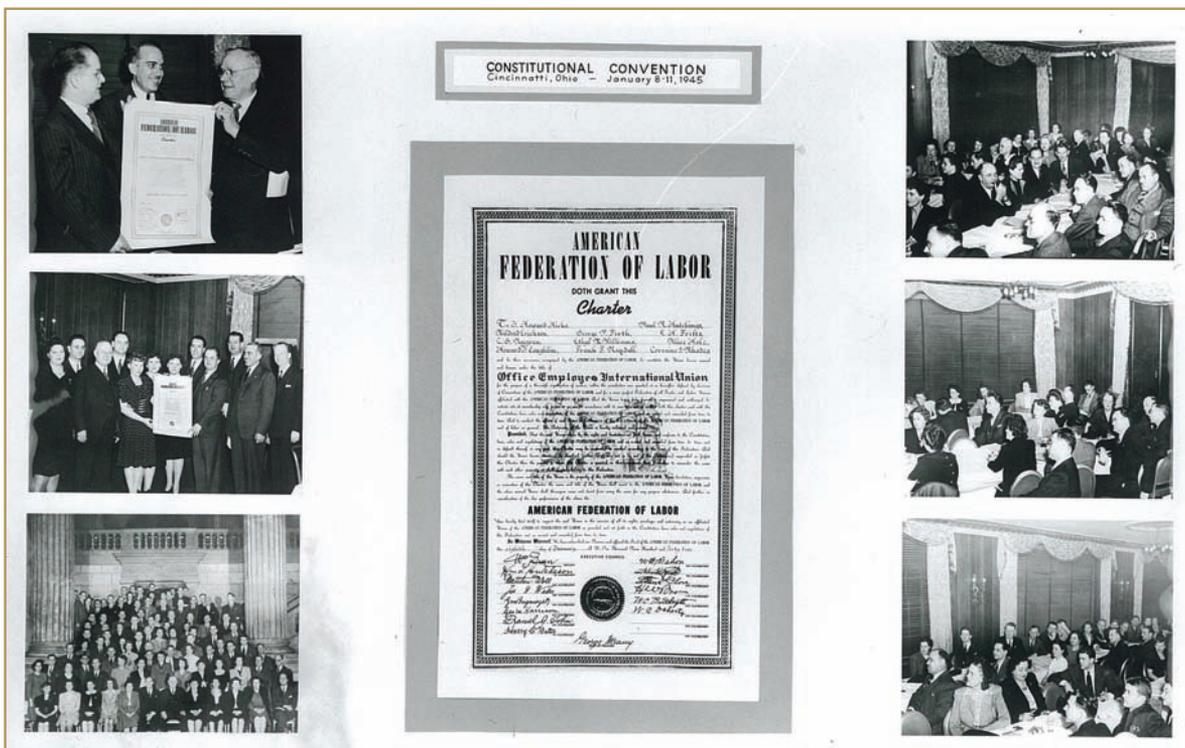
Nearly 70 years ago, we received our charter from the American Federation of Labor as the union for white-collar workers.

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

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

to shoulder, to fight injustice, discrimination and greed and to fight for the dignity and respect we deserve.

We are the Office and Professional Employees International Union. We're strong and we're proud, and work connects us all!



Images from the Office Employees (sic) International Union (OEIU) Convention held in Cincinnati, Ohio, January 8–11, 1945, when OEIU (later renamed OPEIU) received its charter from the AFL. The charter was presented to then-President Charles Hutchings (top left photo, center).

Who's Who in OPEIU

Office of the President

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



Michael Goodwin

International President

Michael Goodwin has served as International President of the Office and Professional Employees International Union, AFL-CIO, CLC, since March 1994.

Goodwin joined OPEIU in 1960 as a mailroom clerk working for the Seafarers Vacation Plan. Rising through the ranks of OPEIU's New York Local 153, he was elected Secretary-Treasurer in 1977 and Business Manager in 1994. Serving as an International Union Vice President since 1979, he became International President in 1994 and has been reelected at six successive conventions.

Goodwin was elected to the AFL-CIO Executive Council in 1995, and also holds the following positions: President, American Labor Museum/Botto House National Landmark; Secretary-Treasurer, New York Hotel Trades Council, AFL-CIO; Vice President, NYS AFL-CIO and member of the Executive Committee; Vice President, NYC Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO; Board of Directors, AFL-CIO Union Privilege Program; Secretary-Treasurer, Coalition of Kaiser Permanente Unions; Board of Directors, America's Agenda: Health Care for All; and Secretary-Treasurer, Alliance for Economic Justice.

At the 1974 OPEIU Convention, Goodwin received the Henderson B. Douglas Memorial Award – the union's highest award for organizing.

Goodwin, a native of Staten Island, New York, and his wife, Patricia Hoffman, have two children, Christopher and Anne. He also has four children from a previous marriage, Donna, Patricia, Cherylyn and Karen and 11 grandchildren, Melissa, Anthony, Brittany, Paige, Camryn, Claire, Penelope, Gianna, Axel, Jordyn and Johnny.

Hoffman retired from her position as Senior Business Representative in 2009 after 31 years of service for Local 153 and continues today as a Local 153 Consultant.



Kevin Kistler

Director of Organization and Field Services

Kevin A. Kistler is OPEIU's Director of Organization and Field Services, a position he has held since 1998. Kistler supervises International Representatives and

Organizers who provide assistance to Local Unions and Guilds.

Kistler brings more than 30 years of union and political experience to the International. Prior to his position with OPEIU, Kistler served as a Regional Director and senior staff member for the AFL-CIO in Washington, D.C. He functioned as a coordinator for state legislative, political and organizing activities.

Kistler began his union career as a member of the engine department on a U.S. Merchant Marine Freighter crew. He later became active in the union while serving as a Washington, D.C., police officer. In 1973, Kistler was appointed an International Representative of the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union, where he was actively involved in organizing, bargaining and strike coordination.

Kistler has been an officer of numerous community organizations. He was a member of the Founding Class of Maryland Leadership and former board member of Montgomery Leadership Corp. in Maryland. In 2009, Kistler received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor Award, one of the highest nonmilitary honors bestowed upon American citizens.



Gary Kirkland

Assistant to the President

Gary D. Kirkland joined OPEIU in 1969 and has served for nearly 45 years.

He was hired as a Business Representative for Local 11 in Portland, Oregon, and was appointed as an International Representative in 1973.

Kirkland was elected as an International Vice President in 1975 and served for 25 years before being awarded the title of Senior International Vice President, a position he held for another four years. He was also elected as Executive Officer/Secretary-Treasurer of Local 11.

Kirkland has also taught labor relations to labor-management committees under the auspices of the United States Department of Labor. He currently serves as Executive Vice President of the Union Labor Retirement Association (ULRA), a nonprofit organization that builds and provides housing for retirees. In 2002, Kirkland was appointed Assistant to the OPEIU International President. He is married to Nancy Kirkland and has two children, Dean and Brandi.



Nicole Korkolis

Director of Communication, Education and Research

Nicole Korkolis has spent her career helping the labor movement communicate with its members and constituents. Prior to joining OPEIU as Director of Communication, Education

and Research, Korkolis was Managing Director of the Carmen Group, Inc., overseeing the firm's public relations division with clients that included international and local unions and nonprofit, educational, business and financial entities.

Korkolis helped these various organizations achieve their communication goals through media relations and crisis communication strategy, marketing and advertising, image awareness and branding, video production, large-scale event planning and website development.

Previously, she served as a Senior Vice President with The Kamber Group, at the time one of the nation's largest unionized public relations firms.

Korkolis is also an accomplished television writer. She is a graduate of George Mason University.



Melvin Schwarzwald

General Counsel

Melvin Schwarzwald is a Co-Managing Partner of Schwarzwald, McNair & Fusco in Cleveland, Ohio. 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 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 serves on the Board of Directors of the Lawyers Coordinating Committee of the AFL-CIO, which is responsible for educational and communication services among labor union lawyers across the country.

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 Best Lawyers in America. In addition to being admitted to practice before all Ohio courts, Schwarzwald has gained admittance to practice before numerous federal courts, including the United States Supreme Court.

Schwarzwald is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School.



Glen Rosselli
Policy and Government Affairs Consultant

An experienced strategic planner, public policy innovator and manager in the public, private and nonprofit sectors, Glen Rosselli is the founder and principal consultant of Rosselli & Associates.

He is a seasoned, deadline-driven coalition builder with expertise in labor, education and health policy; crisis communications; grassroots organizing; and community engagement.

Rosselli has developed strategies and implementation paths to support government affairs, policy, planning, and legislative and communication interests of various healthcare, education and labor clients.

He has written ballot initiatives and arguments, conducted high-profile public forums, and designed political, budgetary, legislative and community outreach components of various policy advocacy efforts.

Prior to setting up his own firm in 2003, Rosselli garnered extensive government and policy experience through a number of state and federal legislative and executive positions.

He has served as Deputy Chief of Staff to California Governor Gray Davis, Undersecretary for California's Health and Human Services Agency, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy Analysis in the U.S. Treasury Department during the Clinton administration, staff to the '92 Clinton-Gore transition team, Senior Policy Advisor to Congressman David Obey and Policy Director on the Congressional Joint Economic Committee.



Suzanne Fenech
Communication Specialist

Suzanne Fenech is a Communication Specialist in the Communication, Education and Research Department under the direction of Nicole Korkolis. She joined OPEIU with more than nine years of public relations experience assisting international and local unions as well as nonprofit groups.

Prior to joining the OPEIU, Fenech was an Associate at the Carmen Group, Inc., as well as at The Kamber Group, at the time one of the nation's largest unionized public relations firms.

A native New Yorker and an avid hockey fan, in her spare time she can be found at Madison Square Garden cheering on the New York Rangers during hockey season.

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.



Sandra Bartice
Administrative Assistant



Judith Kaufman
Administrative Assistant



Colleen Pedersen
Assistant to the President



Kimalee Piper
Assistant to the President



Victoria Tirado-Roman
Administrative Assistant

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, all detailed records management for the International Union, the J.B. Moss Voice of the Electorate (VOTE) Fund, the union's conventions 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. The International Union uses conventional and widely accepted accounting practices.



Mary Mahoney
Secretary-Treasurer

Mary Mahoney has served as Secretary-Treasurer of the Office and Professional Employees International Union, AFL-CIO, since January 2010. Prior to that, she had served as an OPEIU Executive Board Vice President for Region II since 2001.

Mahoney has been a member of Local 6 in Boston, Massachusetts, for nearly 35 years, and has served as President of that local since 1995. During her time as a member, she was employed by the Massachusetts Trial Court, which is Local 6's largest bargaining unit. She began as a Steward for Local 6, later became an Executive Board member and eventually became Business Manager in 2001, a position she held until January 2010 when she became Secretary-Treasurer of OPEIU.

Mahoney also serves as a Vice President of the Massachusetts AFL-CIO, is a member of the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) and serves on the Executive Council for the Greater Boston Central Labor Council as well as a number of other central labor councils in Massachusetts.

Raised in a union family in Somerville, Massachusetts, Mahoney was the youngest of three children. Her father is a retired firefighter, and her mother is a former member of UFCW Local 1445. Mahoney has three nephews, ages 22, 21 and 19 and a niece, age 20. She currently lives between New York City and Stoneham, Massachusetts.



Juliet Casey
Assistant to the Secretary-Treasurer



Manny Garcia
Administrative Clerk



Leslie Luciano
Accounts Receivable Coordinator



Ann McCormack
Executive Assistant to the Office of the Secretary-Treasurer



Tennile Ramkhelawan
Accounts Payable Coordinator



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Members of the OPEIU Executive Board

International Vice Presidents



Walter Allen Jr.

Region V

Walter Allen Jr. is the Executive Director/Chief Financial Officer for Local 30, covering Southern California, Arizona and Colorado. Allen's career with OPEIU began at Local 6 in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1984, where he served as a Business Agent, Assistant Business Manager and finally as Business Manager. He was first elected International Vice President in 1995 from Region II.

Allen came to Local 30 as a Trustee in 2001 and was elected to his current position in 2002. He was elected International Vice President from Region V in 2003.

In his role as OPEIU Vice President, Allen is a member of the Finance Committee and the J.B. Moss Voice of the Electorate (VOTE) Fund political action committee. He currently serves on the Executive Council of the Arizona AFL-CIO, the Executive Board of the San Diego and Imperial Counties Labor Council, and as a Delegate to the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor and the California State AFL-CIO.

Allen has a long history of involvement with the labor movement on both coasts. He is also a longtime member of the Coalition of Labor Union Women and Pride At Work.



Greg Blackman

Region III

Greg Blackman was elected Vice President of Region III at the 25th OPEIU Convention in June 2010. Blackman's first union job was at age 18 with Amalgamated Transit Union Local 689, working as a railcar cleaner for Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA). He was promoted to many positions in five years at WMATA and left as a Technician.

At the age of 23, Blackman became a Transport Workers Union Local 291 member as an Electronic Technician in Metrorail. He transferred to the automated Metromover system and became a Supervisor and a member of the Government Supervisors Association of Florida at age 29.

Blackman was appointed by the late President Ed Darcy Sr., as a Union Representative at age 31 and represented members in all aspects of contract administration. At age 38, he was elected First Vice President and held that office for nine years.

Blackman trained at Florida International University Labor Center and the George Meany Center for Labor Studies in labor-related subjects, as well as attended Broward College. The most important training came from working with two great labor leaders, Darcy and Richard Ellis, who exemplified the attributes that are the bedrock for building an effective labor union.

In 2007, Blackman became President of GSAF/OPEIU Local 100. He serves as Vice President on the Board of the Florida AFL-CIO and on Miami-Dade County's Performance and Efficiency Commission.

Blackman continues his desire to grow Local 100 and the labor movement and feels confident that all the tools needed to bring this to fruition lie in the minds of the great leadership that OPEIU cultivates throughout the International Union.



John F. Conley

Region III

John Conley's interest in labor relations began in 1948 when he joined the National Maritime Union (NMU). 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 (ITPEU). His first assignment with ITPEU was to organize 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 ITPEU 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 to restructure the ITPEU, after which it became a separate division within MEBA and elected its own officers. Conley was elected as the Chair of the ITPEU Division. In 1993, the ITPEU became fully autonomous, adopted its own constitution and changed the officers' titles. Conley held the highest office in ITPEU from 1991 until his retirement in 2012.

In June 2001, the ITPEU disaffiliated from MEBA and on July 1, 2001, affiliated with OPEIU, becoming ITPEU/OPEIU Local 4873. In May of 2007, Conley received the Labor Leader of the Year Award from the Georgia State AFL-CIO. In May 2010, Conley was the recipient of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor in New York City for his outstanding service to his community.



Dan Dyer
Region II

After receiving his B.A. in economics, Dan Dyer taught school for seven years. In 1974, he became a research economist with the International Brotherhood of Electrical

Workers (IBEW). 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 Staff Representative of Local 2 and in 1993 was elected President of the Local. At the 21st OPEIU Convention, Dyer was elected Vice President of Region II.

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



Theresa Kandt
Region VII

Theresa 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. She became involved with OPEIU in 1983 when she was the first person to sign a union card at her UAW Legal Services Plan office located in Detroit, Michigan.

Kandt's leadership continued over the years as she held several positions on her Local Union Executive Board: President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Legal Services Unit Representative and Trustee. She served as the Secretary-

Treasurer of OPEIU Local 42 from 1999 through 2012. She was hired as the Local Union's Business Agent in 1987.

Kandt is also a National Vice President of the Coalition of Labor Union Women. She was elected International Vice President in 1998 in Chicago and has continued to devote her efforts to servicing and organizing.



Richard Lanigan
Region II

Richard Lanigan became a member of the Retail Clerks Union in 1971, working in a department store while attending high school. Lanigan put himself through

college as a member of the Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union while working for Harry M. Stevens at Roosevelt Raceway.

Upon completing his B.A. in history at SUNY Stony Brook, Lanigan joined OPEIU Local 153 as an Organizer in February 1980.

After working as an Organizer, he was promoted to Business Representative, where he gained experience negotiating contracts, handling grievances and conducting arbitration hearings, all while continuing to organize.

In 1987, Lanigan enrolled as an evening student in New York Law School. In March 1988, he became an assistant to the OPEIU President. After completing his studies and being admitted to the New York State Bar, he was promoted to OPEIU Associate General Counsel. In that role, Lanigan assisted the OPEIU General Counsel in the litigation work of the International Union, represented Local Union members in grievance arbitration hearings and represented OPEIU in jurisdictional disputes with other international unions under the AFL-CIO Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure. He continues to represent OPEIU in such jurisdictional hearings to this day.

In 1994, he was elected Secretary-Treasurer of Local 153 and Vice President of OPEIU. As Local 153 Secretary-Treasurer, Lanigan manages the day-to-day affairs of the Local Union and negotiates contracts on behalf of Local 153 members employed by firms such as Emblem Health, the Depository Trust and Clearing Corp., the New York Stock Exchange, the Archdiocese of New York, and Legends at Yankee Stadium.

As OPEIU Vice President, Lanigan assists Local Unions on issues relating to organizing, bargaining, strikes, raids, jurisdiction and other facets of representation, as well as constitutional issues. He also represents several OPEIU Local Unions in negotiations under a master agreement with Horizon Lines, Inc.

In 1998, he won the OPEIU Henderson B. Douglas Award when 3,500 Catholic-school teachers of the Archdiocese of New York became members of OPEIU. Local 153 has won other organizing awards since.

Lanigan is a Vice President of the New York State AFL-CIO and the Long Island AFL-CIO. He is a Trustee of the Perishable Food Industry Pension Fund, the OPEIU Pension Fund and the Local 153 Pension, Health and Long-Term Disability Funds.

Lanigan is a member of the New York State Bar Association. In 2004, he received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. He also has been honored by the NAACP and the Boy Scouts.

He lives with his wife, Nancy, and son, Patrick, age 24, in Fort Salonga, New York.



Green P. Lewis

Region III

Green P. Lewis was elected Vice President of Region III in 2004, and has 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 at Florida International University's Institute for Labor Research and Studies.

He is married and lives in Columbus, Georgia.



Joseph Marutiak

Region VII

Joseph Marutiak is an International Vice President from Region VII in Lansing, Michigan. He has spent the past 25 years leading Local 459, taking it from a small

Local Union to the large and thriving organization it is today.

Marutiak is a Senior Service Representative of Local 459. From 1985 to 2000, he was also President, serving as the lead negotiator and chief spokesperson with 52 bargaining units, processing grievances and organizing new units.

Prior to joining OPEIU, Marutiak was a case manager at C-E-I Community Mental Health and Shiawassee Community Mental Health, both located in Michigan. Marutiak has

served on the Michigan AFL-CIO Executive Council since 1998, as well as the Lansing Association for Human Rights (LAHR) since 1989. He served as Treasurer and Vice President for the Greater Lansing Labor Council at various times from 1989 to 1999 and on the City of Lansing Fire Board from 1994 to 2002.

He attended Michigan State University, where he graduated with honors and received a B.A. in psychology and philosophy.



John Mattiacci, DPM

Region II

John A. Mattiacci, DPM, has been the dean of the Temple University School of Podiatric Medicine since 1998. A 1970 graduate of the former Pennsylvania

College of Podiatric Medicine, Dr. Mattiacci was previously in private practice for podiatric medicine and surgery for 28 years. He served as the director of Northeastern Hospital's podiatric surgical residency program from 1997 to 2004 and as the director of Neumann Medical Center from 1990 until 1999.

Dr. Mattiacci is currently the President of the First National Guild for Healthcare Providers of the Lower Extremity/OPEIU Guild 45, chartered in 1996. He has been an International Vice President of OPEIU since 1998.

He is extensively involved in the leadership of the podiatric medical profession and serves as chairman of several committees of the Pennsylvania Podiatric Medical Association. He was president of the association in 1993 and chairman of the department of podiatric surgery at the North Philadelphia Health System from 1988 to 1990.

From 1985 to 1994, he served on the Hershey Surgical Seminar Committee of the William L. Goldfarb Foundation, and is currently an oral examiner for the foundation's surgical review course.

He has lectured extensively on podiatric medicine and surgery topics and is often quoted as an expert in the media. Dr. Mattiacci is board certified in podiatric surgery and is a Fellow of the American College of Foot Surgeons.

Dr. Mattiacci received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor Award in 2012, one of the highest nonmilitary honors bestowed upon American citizens.



Suzanne Mode
Region VI

Suzanne Mode joined her first union – the IWW, or “Wobblies” – while working for a local nonprofit in her hometown of Washington, D.C. After moving to Texas

in 1981, Mode worked in a unionized factory where she was active in the United Steelworkers of America. Mode served her organizing apprenticeship with Texas ACORN, a local affiliate of the national community-based organization, and was soon hired as an organizer of public employees with AFSCME Local 2444 in Dallas, Texas. She went on to represent federal employees with the National Federation of Federal Employees across Arkansas, Oklahoma and North Texas.

Mode moved to Seattle, Washington, in 1987 where she continued organizing in both the public and private sectors with the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees and Washington Education Association. She joined OPEIU Local 8 in 1990 as Union Representative.

Mode was elected Business Manager of Local 8 in 2002. She was reelected by acclamation at the Local 8 Statewide Assembly in January 2013. She serves as a delegate to the Martin Luther King Jr. County Labor Council and the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO. She also represents OPEIU as a Labor Trustee for the Western States Office and Professional Employees Pension Fund and as Secretary to the Local 8 Puget Sound Benefits Trust. She was elected OPEIU Region VI Vice President in June 2010.



Darshan Nair
Region I

Darshan Nair was born in South Africa and moved to Toronto, Canada, at age 6. He attended the University of Toronto before acceptance into Canadore College, a flight college in North Bay, Ontario.

He began his aviation career as an aircraft refueler to pay for flight school, and was trained to fly airplanes before he learned to fly helicopters. His first helicopter job was flying over the Arctic north coast of Canada.

Nair was a first officer on the Sikorsky S76 aircraft and promoted to captain in 1998. He has flown international operations supporting offshore oil production in Southeast Asia.

He was involved with the initial organizing drive for EMS helicopter pilots working for Canadian Helicopters Ltd. He was a member of the bargaining committee for the first-ever bargaining agreement for helicopter pilots employed in the private sector in Canada.

Nair was elected to the OPEIU Executive Board representing Region I in 2010.

Nair is currently working as an international touring captain for CHC Global, continuing under OPEIU membership with the GHPA. He will continue to give support to GHPA as a loyal OPEIU member.



Christine Page
Region V

Christine Page joined OPEIU in 1978 with Universal Studios in Hollywood, California. Having worked in various positions throughout a 15-year career with Universal while holding various positions on the Local 174 Executive Board, including President, she left the studio in 1993 to join the Local’s staff in Burbank.

Under her leadership as Business Representative, the Local Union has organized and gained contracts for Warner Bros., Warner Bros. Studios Facilities, the Cinematographer administrative staff and CityWalk. An additional world-recognized studio, Disney Pictures and Enterprises, was added to Local 174 through a successful endorsement of its members.

Page was elected to the OPEIU Executive Board in January 2006.



Patricia Priloh
Region II

An OPEIU International Representative since 1983, Patricia Priloh was born in and has worked in Brownsville, Pennsylvania, most of her life. She has four daughters, nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. In 1994, she married Dennis Priloh, who is now deceased.

Priloh graduated from St. Francis Hospital School of Nursing in Pittsburgh in 1959. While working as a Registered Nurse at Centerville Clinic in Centerville, Pennsylvania, she joined Local 457.

Ultimately, she was elected in 1980 to the position of President, a title she still holds today.

Prior to working for OPEIU, Priloh worked as a volunteer on many OPEIU organizing campaigns, mostly involving hospitals and healthcare workers.

Since being employed by OPEIU as an International Representative, she has worked the majority of the time servicing members.



Tamara Rubyn
Region V

Tamara R. Rubyn serves as the President/Business Manager of OPEIU Local 29 located in Oakland, California. Rubyn has been a Local 29 member for 35 years and has served on the leadership staff at Local 29 for the past 26 years. Rubyn serves as a Trustee for the OPEIU Taft-Hartley Fund and a Pension Committee Member on the Anthem/Blue Cross Bargaining Unit Pension Plan.

Rubyn was a spokesperson for Local 29 members in negotiation for the largest National Agreement in the country since 2000. The National Agreement covers more than 32 unions and 100,000 Kaiser Permanente employees across the country.

While preserving the rights of workers, negotiating meaningful collective bargaining agreements and representing the members, Rubyn and her leadership team mentor and coach members to attain the skills to be the future leaders of Local 29. To be successful, the road to our future includes change as well as an open mind to embrace it.



Aaron E. Sanders
Region VII

Aaron E. Sanders was first elected as the Region VII Vice President in June 2004 and has served in that capacity since. Sanders has served as President of Local 512 since

2008 and as Vice President and Trustee of the Local Union in past years.

In 2002, Local 512 merged their state employees with Local 2002 (MAGE). Sanders transferred to MAGE and currently serves as a Labor Representative for all the State of Michigan Supervisors who are members of MAGE. In his duties as a MAGE Representative, Sanders conducts two to three arbitrations per month as well as appeals to the Michigan Labor Relations Board, and oral arguments to the Employment Relations Board as a whole. Sanders has negotiated contracts with UAW Ford Training Center, UAW Chrysler Training Center, Ingham Intermediate School District, Ingham County Road Commission, and Eaton Ingham and Clinton Community Mental Health Supervisors.

Sanders is a practicing paralegal. He is married to Karilyn Sanders, who has been an active member of OPEIU, and served as Vice President of Local 2002 and Acting President of Local 2002, and now serves as Past President.



Mary Short
Region II

Mary Short is an International Vice President representing Region II and serves as President of Local 32 in Union, New Jersey.

She has been employed by the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) since March 3, 1980, and has been a dedicated union leader since helping to organize its clerical workers in 1989. She has served as the unit's Chief Steward since their first contract was negotiated that same year.

Short has held a number of positions with Local 32, including Executive Board member, Recording Secretary, Vice President and her current position as President.



Becky Turner
Region IV

Becky L. Turner was appointed Region IV Vice President to fill the unexpired term of J.B. Moss in 2002. She has been a member of Local 277 since 1978, commencing with her employment at

General Dynamics and later at Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company as a Grammatical Editor and then as a Parts Cataloger Information Specialist.

While employed at General Dynamics and Lockheed Martin Aero, Turner was elected as committee person for Local 277 for the Logistics Department in 1980 and served in that capacity until she was appointed as Chief Steward in 1991 for that same department.

In 1985, it was her privilege to be elected to the Grievance Committee for Local 277, and she served as chairperson of that committee until she took a leave of absence in 1995 to work fulltime as the first female business representative for Local 277.

Turner also served as a Trustee and Vice President of Local 277 prior to her succeeding to the office of President in 2001. She has been on the negotiating team for Local 277 since 1987. Turner is the current elected President as well as 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, Devin and Hadyn Turner. Turner is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin with a Bachelor of Arts.

ITPEU/OPEIU Local 4873 President



Dennis R. Arrington

President

ITPEU/OPEIU Local 4873

Dennis R. Arrington was elected through unanimous vote as President of the Industrial, Technical and Professional Employees Union (ITPEU)/OPEIU Local 4873 in December 2012. Arrington started his union career in 1974, when he joined the National Maritime Union (NMU) as a United States Merchant Marine and sailed throughout Asia, Africa and Southern Europe.

Prior to joining ITPEU in 1983 as a Representative in Galveston, Texas, Arrington was an NMU Business Agent and a union activist. Arrington has served many ITPEU locations throughout the country for more than three decades, rising

through the ranks as Representative, Director of Organizing, Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer.

He has organized thousands of employees throughout the United States at various government and private sector locations, working with representatives throughout the country to build the organization to more than 14,000 current members.

Prior to his union service, Arrington served in the United States Navy from 1967 to 1971 during the Vietnam era, where he received various commendations, including the Navy Achievement Medal from the Secretary of the Navy for meritorious achievement during combat support operations. Arrington was honorably discharged in 1971.

Arrington is a native of and currently resides in Savannah, Georgia.

International Representatives and Organizers

International Representatives and Organizers are assigned by the International to special projects and to assist Local Unions in circumstances that require additional resources for important representation, bargaining and organizing.



Paul Bohelski

Paul Bohelski joined OPEIU Local 277 on April 2, 1997, and serves as an International Representative based in Region IV. He brings more than 20 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 (IBT) in Chicago, Illinois, and continued involvement in the labor movement with IBT, moving to San Antonio in 1980. After a company merger, the surviving union was the Union of Transportation Employees (UTE), 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 to 1997.

In his time with OPEIU, he has negotiated contracts with Air Logistics for Gulf Helicopters Company, 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 Representative.



Ed Darcy Jr.

Ed 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 1970s.

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

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.



Shaun Francis

Shaun Francis began his career in the labor movement in 2006 when, as a Minor League Baseball Umpire, he was elected President of the Association of Minor League Umpires (AMLU). As President of AMLU, Francis led the drive to bring the independent AMLU into the larger labor family by affiliating with OPEIU in 2010. Francis holds an associate degree from Mohawk Valley Community College, and in 2011 he graduated from the Harvard Trade Union Program at Harvard Law School. He has also completed several labor training courses hosted by the National Labor College and the AFL-CIO.

Francis was reelected President of AMLU in 2009 and again in 2012. In 2011, he negotiated a successful new collective bargaining agreement for umpires, with significant pay increases, benefit increases and job security improvements in the new contract. The 2012 baseball season was Francis' final season on the field in professional baseball when he retired from umpiring and moved to a position on the OPEIU staff. Francis will continue to serve as President of AMLU/OPEIU Guild 322 while he works as an organizer for OPEIU.

Francis recently served as the State of Virginia coordinator for OPEIU's Labor 2012 election efforts and currently assists other OPEIU staff in a number of organizing efforts around the country.



David Flores

David Flores, a union member of the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC) since 1991, has been an organizer for FLOC, the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union (HERE), the United Brotherhood of Carpenters (UBC), the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN), and OPEIU from 2006 until the present.



Susan French

"Professional Union Agitator" was a term coined by Fox News to belittle labor activists. To Susan French, this phrase is a badge of honor and an apt description of her life's work. Her family nickname is "PUA."

In 1980, French was elected from the flight attendant rank-and-file to Business Agent, her first union position. She has since counseled everyone to start at the bottom

and work their way up – advice she failed to give herself. Following her term of office, French went to law school while working fulltime as a flight attendant, and in the late 1980s, she was admitted to the California and Texas bars.

French's legal career was focused on labor and arbitration and family law, where she became certified in mediation and collaborative law. She worked as a Business Agent for OPEIU Local 50 and started as an International Representative and Organizer in 2011.

French is proud to have participated with teams that successfully recertified three units at Local 95 following Wisconsin's passage of Act 10. She has negotiated contracts at Local 95, organized at Local 19 and worked with Local 35. She was privileged to be a part of the defeat of anti-labor legislation in Ohio. In addition to organizing and bargaining, French has especially enjoyed the role of inspiring union activists and recruiting and training union stewards. She has learned how to create videos and uses them extensively as training and motivational tools.



Patt Gibbs

Patt Gibbs joined OPEIU as an International Representative at the end of 2010 after serving as the Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer for HNA/OPEIU Local 50, a position she served in for two years. Gibbs earned her Juris Doctorate from the University of West Los Angeles School of Law and is an attorney licensed in California and admitted to practice law before the U.S. Federal District Courts of California, the Northern and Eastern Federal District Courts of Texas, and the United States Supreme Court. She is also a trained certified mediator.

Prior to returning to the labor movement with OPEIU, Gibbs focused her legal career in the areas of labor and employment law, representing several labor unions by providing expertise in collective bargaining, interest-based dispute resolution, grievance and arbitration, steward training, advocacy training, and basic fiduciary skill training for rank-and-file union members serving their union in leadership positions. Gibbs also had a career as a flight attendant and served as a union leader for many years.

Gibbs' many decades of experience as a union member, organizer and leader and her skills as an attorney make her uniquely qualified to serve the various OPEIU Local Unions as an International Representative. She is currently serving as a Trustee for Local 35 and is the main Servicing Representative for OPEIU members of Working America.



Faye Headrick

The Council of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) hired Faye 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.

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



Paul Huertas

Paul Huertas, an International Representative and Assistant to the President, is currently working on a first contract for the CHC Global engineers and organizing Heli-One engineers in Vancouver, BC, Canada.

Raised in New York, Huertas worked for the Grand Union Grocery Stores until drafted in 1969. He served as an Aviation Warrant Officer in the Army in Vietnam and at Fort Hood, Texas, where he met his wife, Jana, and was married in 1973. They moved back to New York, where he returned to Grand Union. In 1978, the family relocated to Texas and he worked for Safeway stores and flew with the Army Reserve. In 1984, he returned to flying with Petroleum Helicopters, Inc. (PHI), then moved on to Chevron Aviation in 1988 and eventually to Tennessee Gas Pipeline Aviation (TGPA) in 1992. In 1996, he returned to Petroleum Helicopters, Inc., when the job with Tennessee came to an end.

Working the same job at PHI for half the pay inspired Huertas to promote the unionization effort. In 2000, he ran a local newsletter and a Web page and then became a Shop Steward and webmaster for Local 108. In 2006 he became a trustee and was elected Recording Secretary for Local 108 just before they went on strike. While on strike, President Goodwin put Huertas to work helping with Benefits Program presentations and covering a personnel change in Las Vegas. Meanwhile, his grievance with PHI went to arbitration in 2008. When the arbitrator ruled for the company, President Goodwin added Huertas to the staff on a permanent basis.

Huertas oversaw the ALLIANCE Program in Las Vegas, Nevada, from 2007 through 2011, organizing the taxi drivers and administering the benefits program. Huertas also worked on the educational conferences and conducted contract negotiations for CHC Global for Local 103. He aided in the benefits programs for GSAF/Local 100 in Florida, Local 1 in Indiana, Local 12 in Minnesota, Local 35 in Wisconsin and Local 19 in Ohio. Huertas worked with Local 95 and Local 35 in the fight against Wisconsin's Act 10 attack on the public sector workers. He was the Nevada State Coordinator for OPEIU Labor 2012 and, with the help of fellow AFL-CIO workers, was able to contribute to the successful election of our candidate to the newly formed congressional seat.



Cesar Mendia

Cesar Mendia is an international organizer for OPEIU.

He was born in Guadalajara, Mexico. During his high school years, he was an active participant in the student union and was elected Vice President in the last year at Colegio de Ciencias y Humanidades.

He studied at the School of Science of Communications at the University Autonomous of Guadalajara, one of the most prestigious private universities in Mexico. During his university years, he was very militant at the FEJ, the students' federation from the State of Jalisco, where he was elected as a Secretary of Press and Propaganda.

His passion for the mass media led to the opportunity to work as an editor at the *Ocho Columnas*, a major daily newspaper in Guadalajara. During this journalism exposure, Mendia learned about the *Sindicalismo* in Mexico, the Mexican union movement. Unfortunately, the political-economic climate changed suddenly in the late 1980s and early 1990s, when almost all of the press and media went into a forced censorship aligning with the then-corrupt government; the few that resisted that trend were either eliminated or shut down. Some journalists were killed, others disappeared and others opted to leave the country to look for better opportunities in a place with more freedom of the press.

Mendia immigrated to the United States in September 1990 with only \$40 in his pockets (the equivalent of two weeks of his salary as a journalist) and a suitcase full of books. His first job as a journalist in the Los Angeles area was at *La Voz Libre*, a weekly newspaper for the Cuban exile community. Through the years, he worked in various jobs in California and became a member of unions such as SEIU and UWUA.

In 2006, he moved to Houston, Texas, where he was hired and trained as a community organizer at ACORN; he was then promoted to an organizer for the Acorn Community and Labor Organizing Center (ACLOC). Mendia has participated as an organizer and volunteer in various campaigns with unions, including SEIU, UFCW, Teamsters, LIUNA, United Farm Workers and USW/ITPEU ALLIANCE.

His passion for organizing encouraged him to take several union courses and training at different schools and universities, including the National Labor College in Washington, D.C.; Cornell University in Ithaca, New York; University of California, Berkeley; the Southwest Organizing School in Santa Fe, New Mexico; Organizing for America training at Las Vegas, Nevada; Interfaith Worker Justice organizer training; and the AFL-CIO Organizing Institute in Chicago, Illinois.



Josué Montijo

Josué Montijo, a Ph.D. candidate (University of Puerto Rico) and writer, was born in Ponce, Puerto Rico.

He began working in 2001 as a project organizer with the International's Puerto Rico office. Now, as an organizer, he has been involved in diverse and successful campaigns for the General Services Administration, milk industry, Council for Higher Education and Head Start AVANCE, among others.



Gary Nuber

Gary Nuber began his tenure in the labor movement in 1981, becoming a Steward and Bargaining Committee member for a bargaining unit represented by the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW).

Based upon this experience, Nuber decided to prepare himself for a career in the labor field and received an associate of arts degree in 1988, a bachelor of arts (with a major in sociology) in 1990, and a master's of industrial and labor relations in 1992 (all three from the University of Wisconsin).

In January 1993, Nuber was fortunate enough to be hired as the Business Agent for OPEIU Local 95 in scenic and friendly Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin. His five years with Local 95 provided invaluable training and experience in both public and private sector negotiations, grievance handling, mediation, arbitration presentation, legal and arbitral research, organizing, mergers, and membership servicing, as well as the entire spectrum of union operations.

Equipped with the significant experience provided by Local 95, Nuber was hired by the International Union in December 1997 to serve the membership and Local Unions in Region VII.

During these last 16 years with the International, he has been both honored and humbled by his interactions and experiences.

Nuber has developed a deep sense of pride and respect for OPEIU as an organization; its insightful and sage leadership and officers; his very talented and knowledgeable fellow field staff members (the best field staff in the business); the hardworking, dedicated and ever-friendly New York staff; and certainly the deeply courageous and vigilant membership and Local Unions in Region VII.

Nuber's 21 years of combined service to OPEIU have been full of challenges, rewards, failures, victories, frustration, satisfaction, miscalculations, triumphs and often exhaustion, with enough humor sprinkled in to help avoid taking himself too seriously. He is thankful for it all.



Shelia Peacock

Shelia Peacock has been on the International staff since March 2000 and has a long history in the labor movement.

After moving to Houston, Texas, she became active in OPEIU Local 129 and served in various positions on the local Executive Board, including as President of the Local Union for 15 years.

As an International Representative, Peacock has successfully assisted Local Unions with negotiations and organizing throughout Region IV, including Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, New Mexico; Evergreen Packaging in Pine Bluff, Arkansas; Dresser Industries, Inc., in Alexandria, Louisiana; St. Vincent Hospital in Little Rock, Arkansas; and Registered Nurses employed with Humana, Inc., in Overland Park, Kansas. She also assists Local Unions with arbitrations and grievances, with encouraging results.

Peacock comes from a family of union activists. Her father was strong in the OCAW and her mother was a charter member of the ILGWU Local Union in Kilgore, Texas. Peacock lives in Houston with her sister, Eltonette Proctor, and her son, Joshua, the light of her life. She is active in her church and local charity projects.



Iram Ramirez

Iram Ramirez was born in Ponce, Puerto Rico. In 1999, he began working for OPEIU Local 402, first as a volunteer organizer and later as a part-time organizer while still a student at the University of Puerto Rico.

He graduated magna cum laude in the summer of 1999 with a bachelor's in labor relations. Ramirez also has a master's in history, with a concentration in 19th and 20th century labor history, graduating summa cum laude in 2004. He has a Ph.D. in history, also graduating summa cum laude in 2009.

Ramirez has taught labor-management relations in the undergraduate program at the Institute of Labor Relations at the University of Puerto Rico. Recently, he has been teaching as an adjunct visiting lecturer at the School of Labor and Employment Relations at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and as an adjunct professor at the National Labor College online program.

He is also Vice President of the Local State Labor Federation and serves as a board member for the Puerto Rico Council of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Ramirez has been successful in organizing and has negotiated multiple units, both in the private and public sectors.



Jeff Rusich

Before working for the International, Jeff Rusich was an OPEIU Local 3 member. During that time, he was an Executive Board member and Chief Steward.

Rusich has worked for more than 23 years as an OPEIU International Representative and Organizer.



Mario Seneca

Mario Seneca comes to OPEIU's staff via his 10 years of membership in the Association of Minor League Umpires (AMLU)/OPEIU Guild 322, where he serves as Second Vice President. He lives near

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and is a licensed attorney in the Pennsylvania Bar Association.

Officiating sports is his passion; Seneca works baseball, football and basketball games at the high school and collegiate levels. He is enthusiastic to be working in the larger labor movement.



Donna Shaffer

Donna Shaffer began her career in the labor movement in May 1978 and became an OPEIU member in Phoenix, Arizona. In 1986, Shaffer reached out to help organize more than 1,000

employees at a hospital in Prescott, Arizona. This is when she became a dedicated volunteer organizer.

She was soon hired on the International staff in May 1987 as an Organizer. Shaffer has always been fond of orchestrating healthcare campaigns. She has spent much of her time assisting many Local Unions throughout the U.S. with their internal and new organizing campaigns.

Shaffer resides in Tombstone, Arizona, and has been married to Lonny for 29 years. She has three grown children and 10 grandchildren, including two pairs of twins!

For more information about OPEIU, visit our website at opeiu.org and Facebook at facebook.com/opeiu.

New Affiliates



Ryan Flynn

President

Transportation Executive Association (TEA)

Ryan Flynn became President of the Transportation Executive Association (TEA) in 2012. Flynn began his union career with the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) more than 22 years ago after graduating from Fitchburg State University with a B.A. in English. Working his way up the ranks, Flynn started as a union bus driver, becoming a Superintendent in 2004.

After many years without a raise and being forced into furlough in 2008, Flynn joined with a group of employees to form a union. After a three-and-a-half-year fight, the group, which consists of managers, supervisors, attorneys and executive assistants at the MBTA, was recognized as a union: TEA Local 76 Boston. The members of TEA are negotiating their first collective bargaining agreement.

Flynn and his wife, Beth, a union school teacher, live in Arlington, Massachusetts, with their two children, Dan and Caroline.



Dottie Miller

President

MIU/OPEIU Local 1937

Dottie Miller has been President of the Merck Independent Union (now MIU/OPEIU Local 1937) since 1990.

Employed by Merck and Co. for more than 31 years, Miller is a Laboratory Services Coordinator and Notary. She has certificates from Harvard Law School/MIT Consortium, SHRM, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Disney Institute and the American Arbitration Association and holds an MBA from Auburn University and a B.S. from Gwynedd-Mercy College, where she currently serves as an adjunct professor in the adult evening program.

Currently serving on the board of the local YMCA; as a Boy Scout leader; in church ministries, various charities and veteran groups; and on her local Planning Commission as Vice Chair, she has worked to ensure that unions and their members are noticed as a vital part of the communities they serve.

Politically active, Miller has been the campaign manager for numerous local campaigns, served in various positions in her local and county area, is an at-large member of the

Pennsylvania State Committee, and was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 2012. She is currently running for tax collector in her township. She was recently appointed to serve on the Montgomery County Commission on Women and Families and the Montgomery County Workforce Investment Board after serving on the County Commissioners' transition team.

Miller has received numerous awards from the Boy Scouts, charities and the Democratic Party, but counts as her highest achievements her 35-year marriage to her husband, Bob (retired Local 98 IBEW), and their son, Bobby, (Local 98 IBEW).



Richard Ayoub

President/Founder

International Association for Independent Agents & Adjusters (IAFIA)/OPEIU Guild 1

Richard Ayoub, a native Floridian, served as Deputy Sheriff for Duval and Clay counties and was awarded "Officer of the Month" by his peers. Moving to California in the early 1970s, he received his general contractor's license, developing and building commercial and multifamily condominiums.

Also holding a general contractors' license in Nevada and while building there, he was called to return to California to assist with the destruction caused by the Northridge earthquake. While working with insurance adjusters, he was commended on his exemplary skills with computers, building knowledge and insurance knowledge. They stated that he would be perfect as an insurance adjuster.

Returning to Florida in 1995, Ayoub turned to a new and exciting career in insurance adjusting. Eighteen years later, Command Services Inc. provides adjusters to major insurance carriers and Ayoub has formed Global Adjusting Corp., which provides professional adjusters for outside damage assessment.

With the vision to help his colleagues and to provide jobs and growth, OPEIU Guild 1 was formed.

William Wintle is the Vice President and co-founder of the International Association for Independent Agents & Adjusters (IAFIA)/OPEIU Guild 1.



Robert J. Isacsen
 President
 National Association of Professional Allstate Agents
 (NAPAA)/OPEIU Guild 17

Robert Isacsen's insurance career has spanned more than four decades, with special emphasis on developing and managing risk management programs for many leading Fortune 100 companies.

Highly proficient in the creation, implementation and marketing of new-to-market insurance products, his vast career has included management of the insurance agency operation of UNFCU Financial Service, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of the United Nations Federal Credit Union.

Since 1989, Isacsen has served as President of the National Association of Professional Allstate Agents, Inc. (NAPAA), a nonprofit organization whose membership consists of agents under contract with the Allstate Insurance Company and other interested parties. NAPAA affiliated with OPEIU on September 1, 2011, and is now known as NAPAA/OPEIU Guild 17.



The International Association for Independent Agents and Adjusters (IAFIA) affiliate with OPEIU and are known as IAFIA/OPEIU Guild 1. Pictured from left to right are OPEIU Director of Organization and Field Services Kevin Kistler, IAFIA Co-Founder/Vice President Bill Wintle and President/Founder Richard Ayoub and International President Michael Goodwin.



The National Association of Professional Allstate Agents (NAPAA) affiliates with OPEIU. Pictured, President Goodwin, NAPAA/OPEIU Guild 17 Executive Director Jim Fish and President Robert Isacsen, Director of Communication,

Education and Research Nicole Korkolis, and Kevin Kistler oversee the ballot count on August 17, 2011, at the New York offices of the American Arbitration Association (AAA). Also pictured counting ballots are AAA employees (seated).



Merck Independent Union Vice President John Edwards and President Dottie Miller, President Goodwin and Kevin Kistler sign the affiliation agreement in June 2012.

Rising Stars Continue to Shine!

Has your Local Union started a Rising Stars youth committee? Would you like to connect with other OPEIU young worker committees? If so, tell us all about it!

Local Union Number

Local Union Youth Committee Contact Name

Phone Number

Email Address

Return this form by mail or fax to:

OPEIU
 Attention: Nicole Korkolis
 Director of Communication,
 Education and Research
 80 Eighth Avenue, 20th Floor
 New York, NY 10011
 Fax: 212-727-3466

You can also complete this form online at www.opeiu.org by clicking the "Rising Stars" logo on the home page.



Council Leaders



Paige Yates RN

Chair
OPEIU Nurses Council (ONC)

Paige Yates has been a member of Local 22 OPEIU for more than 12 years. She has been employed by St. Vincent Health Systems as a Registered Nurse for 18 years. She was on the first negotiations committee for Local 22, and after ratification of their first contract she became a Steward.

For the last seven years, Yates has been President of Local 22. In August 2011, she became Vice Chair of the newly formed OPEIU Nurses Council (ONC). In May 2012, she was elected to serve as ONC Chair.



Joan Craft RN

Vice Chair
OPEIU Nurses Council (ONC)

After working her way through nursing school and earning her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from New York

University (NYU), Craft joined the staff of NYU Medical Center as a registered nurse.

Her union epiphany was the realization that nurses at NYU Medical Center needed union representation. She contacted a union and began to form a committee to organize nurses at NYU.

Having grown up in Hawaii, when the opportunity to work at the Queens Medical Center in Oahu, Hawaii, arose, Craft answered the call. She returned home to work in an intensive care unit at Queens with professional credentials, her RN and five years of nursing experience at NYU Medical Center. At Queens she joined the Hawai'i Nurses' Association (HNA).

Her first union experience as a member of HNA came when she and her fellow nurses found themselves on strike against their employer, the Queens Medical Center. This experience galvanized her belief in the importance of a union in the working life of a nurse. She then became an active member of her union, HNA.

In 2005, Craft was elected Vice President of HNA. She served as the Chairperson of the HNA collective bargaining committee, the committee that evaluated all grievances in HNA and determined whether such grievances would go to arbitration or be settled or withdrawn.

In 2007, she became the Vice President of the 100,000-member United American Nurses, AFL-CIO, the first all-nurse national union. This role required extensive travel and gave her broad exposure to the work-related and professional issues facing nurses throughout the United States.

In 2010, she became President of HNA. As President, Craft made her goal the transition of HNA from an association to a trade union, a project she has worked on since being elected. In 2010, she was a critical player in the HNA affiliation with OPEIU, a major step toward her goal of bringing HNA into the labor movement.

In 2011, after 40 years of HNA representing nurses for collective bargaining in Hawaii, Craft became the first HNA representative to serve as a Vice President of the Hawaii State AFL-CIO.

She served as a Board member of the Center for Nursing Advisory Board and is a member of the National Association of Parliamentarians. She also has been certified in Critical Care and Neuroscience.

Craft's busy life is a balance of working as a union official and working as a nurse.



Dina Carlisle RN

Secretary-Treasurer
OPEIU Nurses Council (ONC)

Dina Carlisle has been a member of RN Staff Council, Local 40 for 13 years. She has served Local 40 as a Steward and on the negotiating committee and as a Trustee on the Executive Board since 2005.

Carlisle currently is serving her second term as Secretary-Treasurer of the OPEIU Nurses Council (ONC). Licensed as a Registered Nurse in 1996, with experience in oncology and labor and delivery, she currently is a critical care nurse at McLaren Macomb, Mt. Clemens, Michigan.

Carlisle was a recipient of the Nightingale Nominee Nursing Award in 2003. She is the mother of two daughters, Kristen and Danielle, and proud grandmother of Elliana and Christiano.



Steven Rush

President
Professional Helicopter Pilots Association
International (PHPA)

Captain Steven Rush was elected President of the Professional Helicopter Pilots Association International (PHPA) on February 12, 2012. PHPA is a council within OPEIU that brings together all of its 2,200 helicopter pilots located throughout the United States and Canada.

Rush was President of Local 102 for 12 years, a founding member of the PHPA Council and a force behind its establishment in 2002.

After handing the leadership of Local 102 over to his Vice President in 2012, Rush undertook the position of Trustee of Local 109 at the request of International President Michael Goodwin.

With a flight career that spans four decades and includes more than 12,000 aircraft hours and 8,000 hours in flight simulators, Rush began his career in the Army in December 1970. After flight training at Fort Rucker, Alabama, he served in Korea for a year and then returned to Fort Rucker to serve as a military flight instructor until leaving active duty in 1977.

After departing active duty, Rush traveled to Alaska to fly for the Alaskan Pipeline project and other related North Slope contracts. Returning to Fort Rucker in 1978 as a civilian flight instructor, Rush was employed on DOD Flight Training Contracts for 32 years. During that time, he also spent 16 years in the U.S. Army Reserve flying Hueys and Black Hawks, retiring in 1994 at the rank of CW4.

Rush succeeds Captain Butch Grafton, who had served as PHPA President since its establishment in 2002.

Rush is also President/Chair of the International Professional Helicopter Pilots Association (IPHPA), a member association in the International Federation of Airline Pilots Association (IFALPA), which is a global group of pilot unions. IPHPA was inducted into IFALPA as the founding member for helicopter pilots in 2012.



Reminder 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 (VOTE) Fund. 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.



Local 39 Has New Contract with CUNA Mutual

On May 2, 2013, employees represented by Local 39 in Madison, Wisconsin, voted to ratify a new contract with CUNA Mutual that includes across-the-board salary increases.

“With the membership and community behind us, we were able to fight back against the anti-union language and the worst of the proposed concessions,” said Local 39 Business Representative Debra Eveland. “This contract was a compromise on both sides.”

Although there were some concessions, the bargaining committee was able to make some significant gains. In addition to the salary increases, the committee was able to secure lump sum payments for those over the new maximums; retroactive pay to April 1, 2013; a ratification bonus; maintenance of the 37.5-hour work schedule; and the addition of work-at-home language, among several other improvements.

The bargaining committee was composed of Eveland, Chief Steward Karen Maund, and Stewards Laura Lowrey, Nancy Dietzman-Mills, Phil Miller and Susan Voyce. OPEIU Assistant to the President Gary Kirkland was also instrumental in securing this contract.



CUNA Mutual Chief Steward Karen Maund and Local 39 Business Representative Debra Eveland smile after ratification of the new contract.

Faculty at Monsignor Farrell Vote for OPEIU Representation!

Faculty at Monsignor Farrell High School in Staten Island, New York, have voted to be represented by the Federation of Catholic Teachers (FCT), an affiliate of Local 153 in New York.

The vote is the end of a four-year odyssey to get the 75 teachers an election, reports International Vice President and Local 153 Secretary-Treasurer Richard Lanigan. The mail ballot was overseen by the New York State Public Employment Relations Board (NYS PERB). “We are waiting for official certification from New York state, and then we will begin the bargaining process,” said Lanigan. “It’s been a long struggle, but we won!”

“We are so happy that this long journey has resulted in our being able to represent these faculty members,” said FCT President Pat Gabriel. “We are thrilled to have them as FCT members.”



“It’s been a long struggle, but we won!”



Local 2 Steward Stands Up for His Members

Christopher Levy has always believed in making a difference in people's lives. Being the Local 2 Shop Steward means he gets to do that every day for the members he serves. In this position, he advocates on behalf of the members, helps solve disputes and grievances, helps enforce the negotiated contract with the employer, and is responsible for new job postings and positions.

Keep in mind, this is in addition to his job at National Labor College (NLC), where he works in the marketing and communication department and is responsible for the website, email marketing and social media. When Levy came to work at NLC four years ago he wanted to learn more about his union and be more involved, so after a lot of encouragement, he became a shop steward.

"My favorite part of being a steward is that I enjoy giving members a voice and putting them on an even playing field with management, standing up for people and what is right, and getting to know all our members and helping them in any way I can," said Levy.

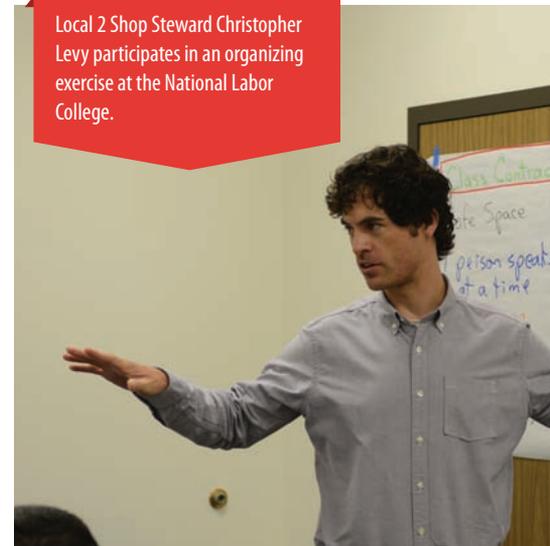
Educational opportunities are another benefit of being an OPEIU member and working at NLC. In September, Levy took part in a weeklong "Organizing I" class at NLC. His experience was positive in so many ways.

"These classes are great because in a lot of shops and locals, the union staff is very busy and there aren't a lot of educational opportunities. NLC is great because it gives me the tools to do my best work and serve my members better. I got to meet a lot of different people doing my members' same types of jobs. Sharing the experiences with them is rewarding. I learned so much from my classmates who were from different industries and diverse geographic locations," said Levy.

“My favorite part of being a steward is that I enjoy giving members a voice and putting them on an even playing field with management...”

How to get new, young members is something that Levy is always thinking about. He got to share his experiences as an OPEIU delegate

Local 2 Shop Steward Christopher Levy participates in an organizing exercise at the National Labor College.



to Next-Up, the AFL-CIO's initiative to get young people involved in the labor movement and develop young union leaders. He went to Minneapolis, Minnesota, with 700 union members under the age of 35—more than 100 of whom were OPEIU members—to discuss strategies for getting more people involved in the labor movement to keep fighting for what we believe in!

Levy doesn't know exactly what his future holds, but he knows that being a shop steward for OPEIU makes him proud of what he does every day.

To learn more about educational opportunities, visit www.nlc.edu/start. NLC is the only college in the United States with an exclusive mission to serve the educational needs of the labor movement. The fully online programs allow union members to complete their degrees on their own time and are less expensive than in-state schools.



Local 29 Organizes Certified Massage Therapists at Sacramento International Airport

Local 29 and the California Labor Federation announce that certified massage therapists employed by Massage Bar Inc. at the Sacramento International Airport have voted for Local 29 representation.

“The entire organizing process took less than six weeks, beginning with a meeting and card signing with Massage Bar therapists on February 2, 2013, and culminating with a successful National Labor Relations Board election on March 16,” said Local 29 Business Representative/Organizer Sofan Harris.

“To counter an anti-union campaign waged by the company, Local 29 sought the assistance of our fellow unions that represent workers at the airport,” Harris continued. “With the help of the Sacramento Labor Council, the AFGE, TSA and UNITE HERE Local 49, who reached out to the employees at the airport

and shared their own recent labor victories, we were able to get more than 70 percent of the workforce at Massage Bar to vote for Local 29 representation.”

Local 29 will begin collective bargaining with the company in the near future.

“To counter an anti-union campaign waged by the company, Local 29 sought the assistance of our fellow unions that represent workers at the airport.”



OPEIU 29 Bargaining Committee and Massage Bar employees (left to right) Karen Stoke and Jennifer Gillum negotiating their first contract at Massage Bar Inc.

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*Msg and Data Rates May Apply. Reply STOP to opt out. Reply HELP or contact info@unionplus.org for help. Expect no more than two msgs/mo.



CSW President Shagawat Inducted into National Academies of Practice in Social Work

Clinical Social Work/OPEIU Guild 49 President Luba Shagawat was inducted into the National Academies of Practice (NAP) in Social Work, Class of 2013, at the NAP Induction Ceremony and Awards Banquet on April 6, 2013. The National Academies of Practice is a nonprofit organization that was founded in 1981 to advise governmental bodies on the nation's healthcare system and consists of distinguished practitioners and scholars elected by their peers. They are dedicated to supporting affordable and accessible quality healthcare for all.



Local 30 Creates "Generation Next"

Taking direction from OPEIU's Rising Stars program, Local 30 is excited to announce the creation of the new Local 30 "Generation Next" Youth Council.

Local 30 created Generation Next because it recognized the need to gain interest and involvement from young members of the Local Union (ages 18–40) to empower them to eventually take leadership roles within their union.

Monthly meetings are being held to help the Generation Next members gain valuable leadership skills. Various training topics are planned, including a history of the labor movement, one-on-one communication, organizing basics, collective bargaining skills, grievance handling skills, public speaking and political action training.

Local 30's first training session, held February 27, 2013, was a tremendous success, setting a positive tone for all attendees. The group had a lively discussion about the importance of building strong leadership within the union, putting education and training at the forefront of the agenda.

Attendees of the first Local 30 Generation Next meeting (left to right) are Raleigh Ruff, Margie Fernandez, Nancy Arredondo, Kagna Yin, Roger Lester, Ian McJannet, Sophia Weiss, Toan Doan, Yesenia Hernandez and Geshalem Perez.

Photo Credit: Maria Perez





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AFL-CIO, CLC



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

WHITE COLLAR

Welcome to San Diego!

The members, officers and staff of Local 30 welcome delegates, observers and guests to the 26th OPEIU Convention. We wish to make you comfortable in our great city and provide you with whatever assistance is needed to make your visit pleasurable.

Our International Union leaders have prepared many wonderful events and opportunities for us during the convention week, including some free time for you to explore the area. We invite you to seek us out and allow us the opportunity to help you find your way around, get tips on great local spots and find the best way to enjoy all that San Diego has to offer.

We look forward to a great convention and a really good time with all of our sisters and brothers in OPEIU.



Local 30 staff members

From left to right (standing) are Administrative Assistant Kim Tyler, Executive Assistant Maria Perez, Director of Member Services Annette Baxter and Administrative Assistant Mariana Almaraz, (seated) Business Agents Mark Bailey and Geshalem Perez.

