OPEIU members, such as recently elected Seattle City Councilmember Teresa Mosqueda, are getting off the sidelines and jumping into political races all over the country.

What about you? There's never been a better time to run for office, become part of a movement or get more involved in your union. There are lots of ways, big and small, you can make a difference in your community. So, what are you waiting for? Now's the time to make it happen and make a difference! (Read Mosqueda's story on page 5)
The latest challenge to our union will come after the U.S. Supreme Court decides the case, Janus v. AFSCME Council 31, which is scheduled to be heard Feb. 26, as this issue of White Collar went to press. Many predict the outcome will undermine how public-sector unions are funded. Such a decision will undoubtedly impact these unions’ ability to build or maintain an infrastructure that makes them effective in representing those they have a duty to represent.

While these global and economic factors made bargaining more complicated, the conservative legislatures of some states passed so-called “right-to-work” laws. These laws undermine the finances of the unions representing working people in those states. When asked why those unions did not wage battle against the enactment of those laws, the unions repeatedly said they did not see the change coming so they couldn’t prepare. As for the Janus case, OPEIU has had some indication that it would be considered by the Supreme Court and has begun shifting resources, conducting and sending members to organizing trainings throughout the country and preparing in a number of other ways to meet the coming challenges. The prospect of an unfavorable ruling has prompted us to prepare for other ways for local unions to work together and for the International union to support that work.

We will also be asking you to take a more active role in your local union. Membership engagement will strengthen the position of union negotiators at the bargaining table for your contract. or improve quality of life and security at work. Along those lines, OPEIU leaders and activists will convene in Memphis in early April to discuss the best practices for making our local unions effective and powerful.

In the coming months, we will also examine ways to facilitate local unions working together so they can be more effective. OPEIU will encourage local unions to consider how such resources can be used to build power. We will look for other ways for local unions to work together and for the International union to support that work.

We will also be asking you to take a more active role in your local union. Membership engagement will strengthen the position of union negotiators at the bargaining table for your contract. Consider volunteering in your local union activities. Ask your shop steward if there is a role you can play in your union. Tell the shop steward when you see something of which the union should be aware. Working together we can build and maintain the strength the union needs to be a powerful force for all members on the job.

During my many years of work as a union representative, I have frequently asked members two questions: What do you want from your union? And, what do you like or respect about your union? I’ve also met with many people who sought union representation, and of them I’ve asked what you would want from a union if you had the opportunity to be represented by one?

The most frequent answer in almost 40 years of conversations is people want a union to be powerful. When you ask those people what they mean by powerful, they mean the union should have the ability to have a positive impact on their work and compensation for their work. For years, societal, global, economic and political factors have made it increasingly complex for a union to build and maintain membership engagement builds power and strengthens the union. The latest challenge to our union will come after the U.S. Supreme Court decides the case, Janus v. AFSCME Council 31, which is scheduled to be heard Feb. 26, as this issue of White Collar went to press. Many predict the outcome will undermine how public-sector unions are funded. Such a decision will undoubtedly impact these unions’ ability to build or maintain an infrastructure that makes them effective in representing those they have a duty to represent.

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We will also be asking you to take a more active role in your local union. Membership engagement will strengthen the position of union negotiators at the bargaining table for your contract. whenever they are seeking to negotiate with management, they must be able to present a united front. As you know, negotiating a contract is a long process, and it is important that all members are involved and informed. The union needs to be able to present a strong, united position that is backed by the membership. When you are on the job, you should always be aware of your rights and the protections afforded by the contract. If you see any violations, you should report them to your steward or the union representative. The union will take action to address any issues and ensure that your rights are protected.

In the meantime, we encourage you to stay informed about the collective bargaining process and to be involved in making decisions that affect your working conditions. This is your union, and your voice matters. Please join us in working together to make the OPEIU Member Action Network a success.

Join the OPEIU Member Action Network!

OPEIU members take action every day to make our world a better place for everyone. That’s why we’ve created the OPEIU Member Action Network. We need members like you who can call on for a rapid response to urgent situations impacting working people. The future of our labor movement and your union, OPEIU, depends on leaders who are committed to advocating for justice and helping to bring the benefits of unionization to all working people.

Will you join us? It just takes a few moments to sign up for the OPEIU Member Action Network. Go to opeiu.org to sign up today.

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Will you join us? It just takes a few moments to sign up for the OPEIU Member Action Network. Go to opeiu.org to sign up today.
Hurricane Relief Still Needed

Dear OPEIU Officers and Members:

I would like to thank OPEIU for the disaster relief funds I received after Hurricane Harvey flooded my home. Although we had flood insurance, funds were not available to us for the first few weeks after the storm. The money I received from OPEIU really helped and made me feel thankful for and proud of the organization that belongs to. This is what unions are all about!

Thanks so much!

Janice Zalesnik
Vice President
Local 129
Deer Park, Texas

Local 129 Vice President Janice Zalesnik, center, with President Sherry Patton, left, and Recording Secretary/Chewin Pam Olive.

Editor’s Note: Relief is still needed in the Gulf states and in Puerto Rico for victims of the recent hurricanes. Stay tuned for more about OPEIU locals’ relief efforts and how you can help.

Lots of Love for OPEIU’s Weight Watchers

Weight Watchers is saving my life! I am down 35 pounds and maintaining. There’s more to go but, it’s a great start! I witnessed my brother, who is more than 400 pounds, almost lose his leg to diabetes, and if that doesn’t change your perspective on your own health, I don’t know what will. I love the program and EVERYTHING it represents. The meetings are key. It is definitely a tight, supportive community. Thank you so much for supporting this journey.

Respectfully,
Cherie Antone
Local 30
San Diego, Calif.

Editor’s Note: Congrats to Cherie on her healthy lifestyle journey! Cherie was among the first 100 to apply for the OPEIU’s limited time offer to lose weight with Weight Watchers. OPEIU is so pleased Cherie, and other members like her, are finding success on the program. And Cherie shared with us when we asked if we could share her story with others. “I don’t mind sharing my story with anyone,” Cherie said. “It gets one person to consider their health and a lifestyle change...I am all for it.”

Educational Conferences ‘Inspire and Uplift’

I just wanted to reach out and thank you for sending out a copy of White Collar with pictures from the Memphis [Southwest/Southwest regional] conference. It was such a pleasure to meet you and your team. I found the conference to be so informational, inspiring and uplifting. At the same time, it gave me an opportunity to meet fellow brothers and sisters who I wouldn’t normally have the chance to meet. You and your team did an awesome job!

Sincerely,
Christina Richards
Executive Board Member and Chief Steward
Local 6
Braintree, Mass.

I just wanted to send a note of thanks for the meetings are key. It is definitely a tight, supportive community. Thank you so much for supporting this journey.

We Want to Hear from You

Letters to the editor are welcomed. Please address correspondence to:
White Collar Editor
OPEIU
80 Eighth Avenue
20th Floor
New York, NY 10011
or email to frontdesk@opeiu.org.

OPEIU Member Teresa Mosqueda Wants You to Join Her in Public Service

Then, she put that education to work, first advocating for children’s health and then serving as political and strategic campaign director of the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO, where she advanced immigrant and refugee rights, and worker and workplace safety protections. She is proud to have drafted and later lead the campaign to pass Initiative 1433, guaranteeing paid sick and safe leave for all working families. But, Mosqueda felt like she could do even more and started contemplating public service. As her frustration grew over the state lawmakers’ responses to issues such as paid family leave, child care, equal pay for equal work, and other threats to the rights of working people, she started thinking more about running for office to achieve her goals for women and working families. The election of Donald Trump was a tipping point.

“We went to the streets and took to the airports” she said at the AFL-CIO’s Martin Luther King Jr. conference in January of her run for office, and that of thousands of women and unionists, after Trump entered into power and issued a Muslim travel ban and anti-woman and anti-worker actions. “Running for office was the resistance. We don’t have a choice, and we haven’t had a choice for a long time.”

She further told White Collar, “People always told me I should run, but I thought maybe I could be more effective outside of politics and questioned if I was ready. But, there never is a perfect time to run. When Trump won, it underscored that more union members need to run for office. We need to step up now and change the narrative.”

She added, “Until you do it, you aren’t prepared to do it.” She took part in the AFL-CIO’s Path to Power: A Political Candidate Training Program, which provides union members and local community activists with the tools and resources to run a successful political campaign and guidance to get elected to make positive change in our communities.

Mosqueda is using her new public forum to continue to advance the rights of working people. “I didn’t leave the labor movement when I was elected,” she observed. “Instead, I’m bringing the movement with me to the halls of power.” In fact, Mosqueda’s first actions after election were to support legislation that would ensure the inclusion of union labor in the $100 million redevelopment of Seattle’s iconic public venue, KeyArena, and to push forward the city’s Domestic Workers’ Bill of Rights ordinance.

In the weeks before her election, Mosqueda addressed the 2017 AFL-CIO Convention at KeyArena, and to push forward the city’s Domestic Workers’ Bill of Rights ordinance. Continued on page 23
American Women Are on the March, and This Year It’s All About Voting

**OPEIU Members Join the 2018 Women’s March**

In cities throughout the country, OPEIU members and millions of Americans took to the streets to march for justice and equality for all women, and force a spotlight on the importance of registering now to vote in November’s mid-term elections.

“Last year’s Women’s March was about solidarity, about standing together to show the strength of women,” said OPEIU Secretary-Treasurer Mary Mahoney. “The 2018 march was about action, about registering now and ensuring we vote in November to make our voices heard.

“We have a very important mid-term election in November, and it’s crucial that working women and men march to the polls and participate. It’s also important that we all hold our current lawmakers accountable to fight harder for laws that protect the interests of working women.

“We’re proud so many OPEIU women and men showed their commitment to women’s rights and equality by marching. We’re counting on them to maintain that energy, make sure they and their families and friends are registered to vote, and then take that energy to the voting booth in November.”

**OPEIU Activists Celebrate MLK’s Legacy and Dream**

OPEIU members joined hundreds of other union activists in Houston to celebrate the legacy and dream of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and to honor those who work day-in and day-out to advance our rights and help lift up people from poverty’s grasp.

At the AFL-CIO MLK Jr. Civil and Human Rights Conference held Jan. 12-15, OPEIU activists also explored how all of us who are concerned about equality and justice can better advocate for racial and economic equity.

With the theme, “Reclaiming the Dream: Strategize, Organize, Mobilize,” the conference focused on building power so that working communities can thrive and families can enjoy the fruits of their labor. Too many of our family members, friends, loved ones and neighbors are overworked, underpaid and underemployed. And, far too many are barely making it from day to day. What Dr. King recognized more than 50 years ago is still true today: Unions, and the protections they afford working people, are our nation’s best hope to realize economic equity.

**Did you participate in local marches?**

Send us your photos and we’ll post them on the OPEIU website at opeiu.org. Email them to frontdesk@opeiu.org with the subject “Women’s March.” You can also share them on Facebook (facebook.com/opeiu), Twitter (@opeiu), and Instagram (@opeiu).
OPEIU Activists Develop Strategies at Educational Conference to Build Local Union Power

OPEIU leaders and member activists gathered in Seattle, at the West/Northwest Educational Conference to develop strategies for building the power and effectiveness of the union.

From how to conduct new member orientations to involving more members in the union through leadership development and mentoring, these OPEIU activists proved we’re stronger when we work together. Check out the Local Union Resources tab at opeiu.org for conversation pointers and other helpful materials to use when talking to others about your union.

Local 8 Recording Secretary Rosalinda Aguirre.

Local 30 President Marianne Giordano.

Local 40 Crittenton Hospital Medical Center Vice President Jo Walker, RN.

Local 30 Contract Specialist Briggert Mitchell.

United Taxi Workers of San Diego (UTWSD)/OPEIU Guild 12uli President/CEO Midith Husein.

The Association of Minor League Umpires (AMLU)/OPEIU Guild 322 Secretary-Treasurer Nick Susie, International Representative and AMLU Executive Director Shaun Francis, Recording Secretary Zo Evans and Vice President Jeff Gorman.

Local 11 Executive Secretary-Treasurer Maureen Colvin, at podium.

Local 29 Executive Secretary-Treasurer Maureen Colvin at podium.

International Project Organizer Andom “Nati” Kahsay, Local 174 Secretary-Treasurer/Business Representative Lupe Valle, Diversity Vice President and Local 174 President/Business Manager Christine Page, and Region VI Vice President and Local 8 Business Manager Suzanne Mada.

Local 8 Executive Board Member (Central Region) David Olivera, left, and Professional Helicopter Pilots Association (PHPA)/Local 107 Trustee David Williams.

Region V Vice President and Local 29 President/Business Manager Tamara Rubin and Region V Vice President and Local 30 Executive Director/Chief Financial Officer Walter Allen Jr. update participants on the new OPEIU 401(k) plan, which launched in December.

Local 8 Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer Jacqueline White-Brown, left, and President Lynnette Howard.
Free College Spring Deadline Is Fast Approaching—Register Now!

The deadline to register for Spring semester classes through the OPEIU Free College Benefit is March 16, and classes begin March 19. Don’t miss out! Apply today at FreeCollege.opeiu.org.

Through the OPEIU Free College benefit, OPEIU members in good standing and their families can earn an associate degree completely free of charge. Every member or retired member, as well as spouses, children, grandchildren and dependents of OPEIU members, can earn a two-year online degree and certificates with absolutely no out-of-pocket costs for tuition, fees or e-books.

Associate degree programs are available in general studies, health care, business management, criminal justice, paralegal and early childhood education.

Here are upcoming registration deadlines (Important note: You must have your local union number available when completing the application process):

- Spring II 2018: March 16, 2018
- Summer 2018: May 25, 2018
- Fall I 2018: Aug. 17, 2018
- Fall II 2018: Oct. 12, 2018

Visit FreeCollege.opeiu.org, or call 888-590-9009 for more information. Take advantage of this valuable benefit available to OPEIU members and their families.

To date, 524 students have received $960,550 in scholarships through the OPEIU Free College program.

Local 153’s Amy Alfano Finds OPEIU Free College Program Affords Her Family ‘Flexibility to Work and Study’

Hundreds of OPEIU members and their families have already taken advantage of OPEIU’s Free College benefit since it was announced in the summer of 2017. Amy Alfano has been a member of Local 153 for 12 years, and when she heard about the new benefit available through her union she was quick to share the information with her four children who range in age from 17 to 28 years old.

“My children and stepchildren were very excited for the Free College benefit,” Alfano said. “It gives them the flexibility to be able to work and start their college education. My oldest works full-time and he wants to start with OPEIU’s Free College associate degree program before transferring to West Virginia University to complete its aerospace program.”

Alfano works for Wesleyan University in Connecticut. “Wesleyan offers a great benefit for employees and their dependents, but you must be enrolled as a full-time student by age 26,” Alfano said. “One of my children is looking into culinary school, and needs the prerequisites she can get through the Free College benefit. My stepdaughter wants to work full-time and get her college education, and this benefit offered by OPEIU could not be a better fit for her and all my children.”

She adds, “The experience with OPEIU’s Free College program has been wonderful. The school has been so easy to work with and they understand the non-traditional student. They walked us through everything from completing the paperwork to academic counseling, to how to be an online class student. Plus, we have not had to pay a single cent, as books and materials for the classes are all included. The entire experience has been fantastic.”

To apply, go online at FreeCollege.opeiu.org and enter application number 0000001, or call 1-888-590-9009.

Apply Now for OPEIU Scholarships

Applications are now being accepted for the 2018 OPEIU educational scholarships. All members are encouraged to apply. Information and applications can be found at opeiu.org under the Member Resources/Union Benefits link, as well as on the OPEIU app.

The John Kelly Labor Studies Scholarship awards 10 scholarships of up to $3,250 for OPEIU members or associate members who have been members for two or more years and are pursuing an undergraduate or graduate degree in labor studies, industrial relations and union leadership and administration.

The Romeo Corbeil/Gilles Beaudang Memorial Scholarship Fund offers summer camp for 20 children, between the ages of 13 and 16, of OPEIU members or associate members. The one-week camp will be held July 16–20 and will teach children about the labor movement while providing fun summer activities, such as swimming, canoeing and volleyball.

Deadlines are March 31 for the Howard Coughlin and John Kelly scholarships. The summer camp deadline is April 30. Scholarship rules and applications are available at opeiu.org under the Member Resources/Union Benefits link. Apply today!

OPEIU Aids Furloughed Government Employees

The January federal government shutdown meant hundreds of thousands of employees were furloughed for three days. Thankfully, it appears that government employees will be paid for this furloughed time, but it’s a good reminder of yet another benefit of being an OPEIU member—OPEIU’s government employees’ furlough subsidy.

In the event that government employees or those who work for government subcontractors are furloughed and not paid as the result of a federal or state shutdown, OPEIU provides a $300 per week benefit.

Thanks to their union, furloughed workers who are members of OPEIU have the peace of mind that comes from having a strong union in the workplace.

Enroll Now in Your OPEIU Identity Protection Benefit

Go to opeiuIprotect.com to register today!

Remember, all OPEIU Membership Benefit information can be found at our website, opeiu.org, and on the OPEIU App.

Download the app today at the App Store and Google Play.
OPEIU Local Unions Provide Aid to Those Impacted by Hurricanes

OPEIU local unions throughout the country have been generously donating time, resources and financial assistance to those affected by the hurricanes in the Gulf States and in Puerto Rico, in addition to the many donations that continue to be made to the OPEIU Relief Fund.

You can still help your fellow OPEIU members by contributing to the OPEIU Relief Fund. All money collected will be sent directly to OPEIU members and families impacted by the hurricanes.

Checks can be sent to:
Mary Mahoney
Secretary-Treasurer
OPEIU
80 Eighth Avenue, 6th Floor
New York, NY 10011
ATTENTION: OPEIU Relief Fund

Local 12 volunteers in Puerto Rico following Hurricanes Maria and Irma, including OPEIU nurses; Local 2 in Washington, D.C., holds a Drive Drive, where they sorted, packed and shipped 22 boxes of toiletries, baby necessities, children’s clothing, toys and more to Texas and Florida.

OPEIU Mourns Loss of Gary Kirkland

OPEIU is mourning the loss of retired Senior Vice President Gary Kirkland, who was an integral part of OPEIU for 40 years, holding the positions of organizer, international representative, Local 11 secretary-treasurer and international vice president and assistant to the international president. He also chaired the Resolutions Committee at several OPEIU conventions.

“Gary was appointed secretary-treasurer of Local 11 in 1978 and was very well known throughout the labor community,” Local 11 Executive Secretary-Treasurer Maureen Calmin said. “As the executive officer of Local 11, Gary organized several of our bargaining units and, along with Mike McGay at Northwest Natural Gas in 1998, negotiated the breakthrough Joint Accord Partnership, which was a process to make labor relations at the company a participative effort based on mutual respect, open communication, shared success and innovative problem solving.”

She added, “Since becoming a member in 1997 and in my current role as executive secretary-treasurer of the local, I had the opportunity to work with Gary and knew him to have a labor-first attitude and to fight hard for the rights of working people. I always referred to Gary as the closer in bargaining. When negotiations were struggling, he came in and got it done. Gary Kirkland definitely left his mark on the labor community.”

Richard Lanigan Receives Labor Press’ Hero of Labor Award

OPEIU President Richard Lanigan received the Labor Press 2017 Hero of Labor Award for his outstanding contributions to bettering the lives of working families. Attending the event were Region II Vice President and Local 153 Business Manager Michael Godehn, Organization of Staff Analysts (OSA) Chairperson Robert Crogan, OSA Executive Director Sheila Gorsky, Labor Press Publisher Neal Tribe, Local 153 President Steve Turkebauch who accepted the award on President Lanigan’s behalf, NYC Council Member Vanessa Gibson, Labor Relations Attorney Vincent Pitta, and Armas LLP’s Salvatore Armas.

Local 459 settles Historic Contract with American Red Cross

A ten-year fight for a fair contract at the American Red Cross resulted in a new contract and the resolution of an unfair labor practice charge that means settlements for lost benefits in excess of $1.6 million for the members of Local 459 in Michigan.

The struggle of Local 459, which represents the majority of Red Cross employees in Michigan, to obtain a contract has been well-documented in White Collar over the years. Local 459 members worked under the terms of the expired contract while enduring a year delay in the start of negotiations, extreme violations in labor law as the Red Cross implemented unilateral changes to the contract without bargaining, a federal trial that found Red Cross violated the law in 17 ways and two strikes. Local 459 striking members held strong, even when other unions decided to end the fight and agreed to the Red Cross’s demands for concession. “They had contracts, but that was actually a bad thing,” said Region VII Vice President and Local 459 President Sharon Taylor. “Their old working conditions were better than their new contract. The Red Cross eliminated the defined pension plan for long-term employees shortly after the strikes ended — something they hadn’t proposed during negotiations, but they had insisted on language that allowed them to make changes in the pension plan without bargaining.”

She added, “Since Local 459 members didn’t have a contract including this language, the Red Cross couldn’t legally eliminate the pension plan for our members.”

OPEIU Local Unions Provide Aid to Those Impacted by Hurricanes

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The second strike eventually ended, but the fight for a contract continued. After an NLRA decision in favor of the union and a lost appeal by the Red Cross, negotiations finally began, and in December 2017, a final contract and settlement of the unfair labor practice charge was reached.

The Red Cross has agreed to pay the employees, and those who left or retired during the 10-year saga, $1,637,000 for most of the losses incurred as a result of the unilateral changes it implemented. The 318 current and former employees will receive an average payment of $5,510, with the largest payment of $31,300.

Unlike Coalition partners, Local 459 was able to maintain a quality, affordable local Blue Cross Blue Shield healthcare plan, and wage increases of 5 percent in the contract’s first year, and 2 percent in each of the remaining two years, plus a $3,000 bonus. The contract provides for maintenance of guaranteed hours per week, an automatic wage progression and regular breaks. Local 459’s contract also doesn’t allow merging of some classifications that other coalition partners’ contracts allow.

Continued on page 14

Clockwise from top left: Local 298 members in San Antonio, Texas, help with the cleanup and rebuilding efforts following Hurricane Harvey; Local 101 members help remove debris around the homes of senior citizens living in Florida following Hurricane Irma; OSA/Local Union (OPEIU Local 100 Executive Board Member Luiz Marzot, left, lends a hand to the relief effort by delivering supplies to a shelter set up at the Miami-Dade County Fair and Exhibition Center; Relief volunteers in Puerto Rico following Hurricanes Maria and Irma, including OPEIU nurses; Local 2 in Washington, D.C., holds a Drive Drive, where they sorted, packed and shipped 22 boxes of toiletries, baby necessities, children’s clothing, toys and more to Texas and Florida.

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Continued on page 14
Local 459 Settlements Historic Contract with American Red Cross

Continued from page 13

The new members of Local 42 include, back row, left to right, Nick Woodward, Shenika Brown, Kiana UAW Legal Services Employees Join Local 42

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The new members of Local 42 include, back row, left to right, Nick Woodward, Shenika Brown, Kiana 14 | Issue 536 · Winter 2018

Local 153 Has New Contract at Wesleyan University

Local 153 in New York, New York, has ratified a contract for clerical staff employed at Wesleyan University in Connecticut that means an 8.25 percent wage increase over the three-year contract. In addition to the wage increases of 2.25 percent in the first year and 3 percent in each of the following two years, employees will receive a 3 percent lump sum payment, an additional $500 ratification bonus and a $125 lump sum payment in the third year of the contract. The contract also provides for auto enrollment in the 403(b) retirement plan.

Local 9 organizes Chicago Teachers Union organizers

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Congratulations to Local 9 for organizing six new members employed as organizers at the Chicago Teachers Union (CTU) Local 1. The campaign to organize these working people started in October 2017. Local 9 Business Manager Dave Rehberg said, “We were contacted by a person who spoke with another individual who we already represent.” Through word of mouth, Rehberg took the next steps and met with the group at a luncheon, where he introduced himself and Local 9. A week later, the organizers for CTU Local 1 decided they wanted to be represented by OPEIU. After receiving the majority of the vote to join Local 9, Rehberg sent a letter to CTU Local 1 notifying them they had the majority. CTU Local 1 recognized the decision that the organizers wanted to be represented by Local 9 without going through the NLRA. Local 9 is currently working on their first bargaining agreement.

Recognizing There is Strength in Numbers, Local 376 Merges with Local 153

Local 376, which represents 24 members in New York, left to right: members Lisa Martinez and Sarah Brown, former board members President Nancy Swanson, Vice President Patti Buchanan-Norcross, Secretary Cathy Wynn and Treasurer Joan DeMottes. Not pictured is Trustee Aleta Looker.

OPEIU nurses are always ready to lend a helping hand to fellow nurses, regardless of their membership. OPEIU in January, the OPEIU Nurses Council (ONC) received a request for an honor guard to attend a funeral in Florida. A nurses honor guard pays tribute to nurses at the time of their death by performing the Nightingale Tribute at the funeral or memorial service. The service is similar to a military tribute and symbolically releases the nurse from her/his nursing duties. A nurses honor guard dresses in the traditional white uniform complete with cap and cape for the brief ceremony that consists of reciting the Nightingale Tribute and laying of a white rose on the casket or next to the urn, symbolizing the nurse’s dedication to the profession.

ONC Vice Chair and Local 459 Steward Julia Murray, RN, handled the situation right away, reaching out to an honor guard organization in Florida to see if they would cover the funeral. Even though the Northeast Florida Association of the Friends of the Nightingale are approximately two hours away, they agreed to attend the funeral to pay their respects to a fellow nurse who dedicated her life to serving others for more than 30 years. If you would like more information on the OPEIU Nurses Honor Guard, please visit opeiuunionsc.org.

Local 2 AFGE Contract Update

Local 2 members employed in the offices of the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) have ratified by overwhelming majority a new contract that includes parental leave provisions, a $500 signing bonus, an almost 3 percent wage increase and many other provisions. This contract followed months of negotiations that resulted in mediation after the unit voted down the previous agreement. Congratulations to the negotiation team and all the members who stood strong and worked for a fair contract.

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OPEIU Free College Benefit Call Center Employees Join OPEIU

Thirteen hard-working employees of the Student Resource Center in Cranston, Rhode Island, have voted to join Local 25 and have ratified a first contract, according to Local 25 Organizing Director Jim Riley.

These new members are employed by the subsidiary of Higher Education Partners and are the folks staffing the call center helping OPEIU members who are taking advantage of the OPEIU Free College Benefit through Eastern Gateway Community College.

Thousands of OPEIU members are benefitting from the Free College program through their union. It’s terrific that these helpful employees can now have access to the same protections and benefits available to OPEIU members because of their union membership.

New members of Local 25 employed at the Student Resource Center are, back row, left to right, Jashve Martinez, Ro Prum, Ra’Jean Townes, Jonathan DeAndrade, Christian Macedo, front row, Lacharne James, Pamela Reyes, Nelsey Reyes, Chet Materra, and Veronica Jackson.

Local 277 Elects Tyler Turner as President

The newly elected Local 277 officers and stewards, back row, left to right, are Allen Widner, DeAndrea Caphus, Kim Whitman, Kelley Box, Moses Contreras, Lynda Gray, Dana Fite, Diane Gonzalez, Vickie Butler, Matthew Campos, Delita Engelke, Phyllis Trigg, Dan Eddleman, Erica Haggerty, Crystal Gentry, OPEIU President Richard Langan, Tyler Turner, front row, Gene Patton, Teresa Vasquez, Cecilia Guerra, Debbie Johnson, Melanie Kemp, Teresa Griggs, LaShun Hawkins, Cheryl Hunter, Ramona Alexander, Linda Escamilla and Patricia Carroll, seated.

Senior Business Representative Tyler Turner was elected in October without opposition as the new president of Local 277 in Ft. Worth, Texas. Also elected were incumbents Kim Whitman as Kansas Missouri executive board member at large (formerly Local 320) and DeAndrea Caphus as Waco trustee.

OPEIU President Richard Langan attended the membership meeting to swear in the officers and stewards, and spoke eloquently of passing the torch from one generation to the next. He also thanked longtime former president Bicky Turner, who also serves as Region IV vice president, for her service. Turner, who remains the local’s business manager, said, “We are excited to see Local 277 preparing to meet the future with a new president and fresh ideas to equip us to succeed and remain strong for the future.”

Tyler Turner is the seventh president elected since Local 277’s charter in 1952.

Local 30’s Shoes for Kids Drive a Huge Success

Kids at Perkins Elementary School in Barrio Logan, San Diego, California, show off their new shoes courtesy of generous members of Local 30 who donated hundreds of pairs of shoes to the students, many of whose families are struggling financially, are homeless or living in shelters.

OPEIU President Richard Langan, Region IV Vice President and Local 277 Business Manager Becky Turner and new President Tyler Turner.

Local 32 Officers Meet with New Governor

Region IV Vice President and Local 32 President Mary Short, left, and Business Manager Sharon Eastwick meet with newly elected New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy at the New Jersey AFL-CIO holiday party, where Murphy pledged to support the interests of labor and working families in New Jersey.
Local 30 Swears in Officers

Local 30 has re-elected and sworn in officers for a three-year term through September 2020. The officers are Executive Director/CFO Walter Allen Jr., President Marianne Giordano, Vice President Catherine Engler, LVN, Recording Secretary Catherine Engler, LVN, and Trustee Mike Ramey. Elected to the executive board are Carmen Corral (San Diego), Jon Larson (San Diego), Jan Nikodym (San Diego), Roger Lester (California Service Center), Annie Watson (Los Angeles), Jamie Campbell (Los Angeles), Linda Winters (Arizona) and Gayle Noon (Colorado).

Allen and Giordano were first elected to office in 2002 and have been re-elected every three years since. New to the board are Noon and Campbell. Local 30 wishes to thank retiring board members Ruth Porches (Los Angeles) and Chris DelBay (Colorado) for their many years of service to the members.

Left to right are Board Member Roger Lester, Trustees Soralla Arellano and Mike Ramey, Board Member Jon Larson, Vice President Catherine Young, LVN, President Marianne Giordano, Executive Director/CFO Walter Allen Jr., Recording Secretary Catherine Engler, LVN, Trustee Diane Nunez, and Board Members Carmen Corral and Jan Nikodym. Not pictured are Anne Watson, Linda Winters, Gayle Noon and Jamie Campbell.

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Other ways to stay connected with your union:

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*By providing your cell phone number, you understand that OPEIU may send you automated calls and/or text messages on your cell phone on a periodic basis. OPEIU will never charge for alerts, but carrier message and data rates may apply. You can text HELP for more information and STOP to stop receiving messages to 97779 at any time.

Local 1937 Officers Elected to CLC

Local 1937 President Dottie Miller, center, and Vice President John Edwards have been elected to the Montgomery County Central Labor Council in Pennsylvania. Miller becomes the first female executive vice president, and Edwards will serve as trustee. They are pictured with the CLC’s Community Services Director Heidi Cory, who is also a Local 1937 member. All three understand that getting involved in their local central labor council is a great way to make a difference and improve the lives of working families in the community.

Local 102 Pilots Ratify New Contract

Professional Helicopter Pilots Association (PHPA)/Local 102 has voted overwhelmingly to ratify a new contract that means a decrease in healthcare cost sharing, increased wages of upward of 9 percent in the first year and 2 percent in the second and third years of the contract.

After voting down the company’s first offer by a 97 percent margin over its efforts to increase the pilots’ share of health insurance costs and an offer of very low wage increases, the membership undertook a successful “Fair Contract Now” campaign, wearing bright orange lanyards at the base at Ft. Rucker and Union Strong wrist bands. Standing together, the union prevailed and the pilots now have a fair contract.

The PHPA’s Local 102 bargaining team, left to right, are Trustees Justin Wahna and Bill Haaren, Vice President Al Hauenstein, Recording Secretary James Guy, President Mark Souza, Trustees Lee Murphy, Matt Hedger and Rod Barber, and International Representative Shawn Francis.

Local 40 Nurses Help Those in Need

Local 40 registered nurses from the Ascension Crittenton Unit recently provided underwear, socks and other items for residents in need at the Rochester Neighborhood House. Pictured are some of these caring RNs, Andrea Strobel, Jessica Nicole, Cassandra Bell, Jo Walker, Dawn Rosee and Alana Boyd.

Local 40 nurses also teamed up with Mt. Clemens Community Schools to organize a backpack drive for students, providing approximately 140 backpacks full of everything a child needs when heading back to school. Every Friday during the school year, these same backpacks are filled with food to feed the children through the weekends. Local 40 Board Members and RNs, left to right, are Trustees Brian Losowski and Michael O’Neill, Recording Secretary Joseph Smithson, President Jeff Morewski, Trustee Marty VanDerHeyden, Treasurer Joanne Corzipsar, Chief Steward Crittenton Unit Barb Chubbs and Vice President Crittenton Unit Jo Walker.
Local 459 Leadership Training Energizes Membership

Michigan member activists gain valuable leadership training.

OPEIU member activists from throughout Michigan recently gathered for a day-long training session to help them become better advocates and leaders at their worksites.

The training, sponsored by Local 459, brought together members from Michigan Locals 40, 42, 393, 459, 494, 512 and 2002 to learn more about ways to build local union power, engage and activate members and effectively conduct new member orientations.

The training was led by OPEIU Director of Organizing Cindy Schu and an instructor from Cornell University’s labor relations school. OPEIU President Richard Lanigan also spoke about the importance of building our membership to meet the challenges presented by widespread anti-worker laws, such as so-called “right-to-work.” Local 459 McLaren Greater Lansing Chief Steward Julie Murray, RN, explored how to keep membership roles high despite open shop provisions, and staff members Murray, Charles Terry, Lois Davis-Thomas, Kerry Miller and Naudia Fisher discussed workers’ Weingarten rights.

“A lot of very useful and important information was packed into the six-hour training,” Region VII Vice President and Local 459 President Sharon Taylor said. “Members left saying they were energized and ready to engage other members.”

Local 459 Wins Henderson B. Douglas Award for Organizing Excellence

Region VII Vice President and Local 459 President Sharon Taylor accepts the OPEIU’s Henderson B. Douglas Organizing Award on behalf of the local for its efforts to organize 400 dietary and environmental services employees at St. John Moross Hospital in Detroit, Michigan.

Local 6’s Anna Ericsson Receives AFL-CIO Scholarship

Local 6 member Fred Ericsson’s daughter Anna was awarded the State Representative James O’Day $1,000 Scholarship by the Central Massachusetts AFL-CIO at its 2017 Labor Day Breakfast. Anna began college in the fall and is pursuing an engineering degree. “The officers, staff and membership of Local 6 congratulate Anna for her achievements and wish her the best in her future endeavors,” said Local 6 Business Manager George Noel. Fred Ericsson is a senior maintenance tech at the Worcester Trial Court. Also in attendance was Local 6 Vice President Lois Ciuffredo.

Local 53 Officers Elected to Nebraska State AFL-CIO

Local 53 Recording Secretary Wenda S. Winkle, right, is sworn in as an executive board member of the Nebraska State AFL-CIO. Also pictured is Susan Martin, who was re-elected president/secretary-treasurer. Administering the oath of office is outgoing Vice President Mark A. Ginhakok.
Notice to Employees Subject to Union Security Clauses

This notice is for all employees working in the United States who are subject to the procedures for collective bargaining as set forth by collective bargaining agreements, and for all individuals who are nonmembers of the Union.

This notice is intended to inform you of your rights and responsibilities under the collective bargaining process. You have the right to file an objection to the funding of expenditures that are not germane to the collective bargaining process. However, you must file your objection within 30 days of receiving a letter from a Local Union, the International Union, or the American Arbitration Association.

Expenditures of the Union include those amounts it remits to the International Union and/or the American Arbitration Association. Such expenditures include, but are not limited to:

- Labor relations activities
- Legal fees
- Arbitration fees
- Employee benefits
- Union administration

You have the right to file an objection if you believe any of these expenditures are not germane to the collective bargaining process. However, you must file your objection within 30 days of receiving a letter from a Local Union, the International Union, or the American Arbitration Association.

To file an objection, you must include the following information in your letter:

- Your full name and address
- Your job title, department, work location, Local Union number, and business telephone number
- The name and address of the Local Union
- The date and amount of the expenditure
- The date and amount of the fee
- A statement explaining why you believe the expenditure is not germane to the collective bargaining process

You can file your objection by mail or by fax to the Local Union or the International Union. You will be notified of the outcome of your objection within 30 days of filing.

OPEIU Member Teresa Mosqueda Wants You to Join Her in Public Service

Continued from page 5

In introducing her to the convention delegates, OPEIU President Richard Lanigan noted, "We need new candidates for the Labor movement to identify and recruit new candidates, like Teresa, who reflect the diversity and carry the values of the labor movement. We need to support these candidates who recognize the importance of community and political involvement, who recognize their responsibility to champion pro-labor values and realize this is our best way to truly effectuate change for working families."

Mosqueda feels the pressure to prove a union candidate can be effective and make a difference for working families in our community. "I want to show results, so people don't get discouraged," she said.

She also wants more union members to step up and run for office. "It's not always fun and it's not easy, but when we don't put ourselves out there, we take ourselves out of the equation completely."

"For those who are in the labor movement, we need to do better. We need to do what we can to push our labor principles," she said, fighting for the rights of immigrants, low-wage working people, health care for all, equal pay, family leave, affordable child care and housing.

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