



WHITE COLLAR

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

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Michael Goodwin Re-Elected International President *Delegates Elect Mary Mahoney as Secretary-Treasurer*

To the sounds of great applause, balloons and confetti, the delegates to the 25th OPEIU Convention unanimously re-elected Michael Goodwin to his sixth term as OPEIU International President.

Former International Vice President Mary Mahoney was also elected as International Secretary-Treasurer, a position she was appointed to in January following the retirement of Nancy Wohlforth. The convention hall erupted in cheers and applause as President Goodwin and Secretary-Treasurer Mahoney were elected to their positions.

Also elected were 14 International Vice Presidents and three International Vice Presidents for Diversity. For information about this and other convention highlights, see page 8.



International President Michael Goodwin and International Secretary-Treasurer Mary Mahoney are elected by the 25th OPEIU Convention by acclamation.

OPEIU Provides Towing/Service Benefit to All Members! *Convention Approves New Towing/Service Calls Benefit*

Upon the recommendation of the Executive Board, convention delegates approved a second national benefit for all OPEIU members, effective October 1, 2010, with the addition of up to two towing/service calls per year, per household, valued at up to \$100 each to all family members living in the same household of the member, provided through Nation Safe

Drivers (NSD). Each OPEIU member will be provided with a key card, wallet-sized card, membership number, producer code and plan letter in the mail this month. The benefit is available in the continental United States, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Canada and Mexico.

The PerksCard national discount program will be continued through the next Convention in 2013. The PerksCard provides savings of

hundreds of dollars on website and in-store purchases through national retailers, at restaurants, on movie tickets and numerous other items, at no additional cost to the member.

OPEIU strongly believes that adding membership benefits, directly provided by the Union, is a good way to increase membership satisfaction, attract new members and grow the Union.

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Be Careful What You Wish For!

By Michael Goodwin, International President

On November 2, 2010, Americans will choose representatives in Congress to work with President Obama over the next two years. He himself will be up for election in 2012.

I am dismayed about all the talk that 2010 will be anti-incumbent. Members with progressive views are saying that they will not vote for the Democratic Party incumbent or that they will sit out this year's election. I understand the frustration that we all feel following the emotions of the 2008 elections, where our expectations of hope and change peaked. Because of the high level of expectations, there is somewhat of a disappointing feeling in the air, even in the face of the most successful revision in federal health care policy in history!

And when you examine the record closely, the Obama administration has done more for workers in two years than the Clinton administration did in eight. For example, billions of dollars were provided for aid to state and local governments, education jobs, high speed rail and clean energy. They saved the domestic auto industry and placed trade sanctions against China to stem disruptive imports of tires.

President Obama issued five pro-worker Executive Orders and signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, and with the new appointee to the National Mediation Board, a new rule now allows workers to decide on union representation by the majority of votes cast. For decades, every worker who did not vote was counted as a "NO" vote.

The administration provided new funding for worker protection agencies and stepped up enforcement of the Occupational, Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) and the federal Wage and Hour Division. And, the administration reversed Bush policies that led to the contracting out of federal employee jobs.

Wall Street reform legislation was passed — the most comprehensive reform of the financial sector since the 1930s — a major win for workers and the middle class over the forces of greed. Key appointments have been made including Employee Free Choice Act supporter Hilda Solis as Secretary of Labor, former Flight Attendants President Linda Puchala as chair of the National Mediation Board, former Air Line Pilots Association President Randy Babbitt as administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, four union lawyers to key posts, and appointments of a diverse group of judges to the federal bench, including a record number of minorities.

In light of all of these accomplishments, you have to wonder what would have happened if President Obama wasn't there. You would

have to wonder what would happen if the Republican party of "NO" were to regain control of Congress. In politics, the time between elections can seem like a lifetime, and oftentimes the memories of the public are blurred over time. But if you look back to what happened in the elections of 1994, when the Democrats lost 52 seats in the House and the Republicans took control of Congress, it wasn't long before workers were faced with dealing with the "Contract on America," which ripped apart so many progressive values. Workers spent years, not in winning pro-worker executive orders, not in winning support for state and local governments, fair pay act legislation, funding for work protection agencies or putting the reins on Wall Street — but month after month, and year after year, defending against efforts to destroy workers' rights and organization. I am sure many of you remember those difficult years. Do we really want to go back to those kinds of times? Be careful what you wish for!

Everyone has to remember how the economy got into the shape it was in when President Obama took office. It got there because the Bush administration and the policies put forth in Congress drove the economy into the ditch. It's common sense that when you drive a car into a ditch and somehow miraculously are able to get the car out, what you don't want to do is put it in "R" for reverse and go right back into the ditch again. What you want to do is put it in "D" and drive forward toward progress and make your way home.

Members who vote against their values or sit out the election are facilitating the American economy right back into the ditch. So it is important that all Americans rethink where we were and how far we have come. We should continue on the road of progress for all workers and not let our emotions trick us into voting against our best interest.

This election is not about where a mosque is located or where the president was born — it is about jobs, jobs, jobs! The only way we are going to see a continuation of the progress being made in creating or saving new jobs is to continue the team we have in Congress. Already, working with the Congress, the administration has saved or created 3.5 million jobs — but 11 million are needed to keep up with the growing economy.

Progress is being made in the creation of jobs and reducing unemployment, and it won't be long before the economy is working again for everyone. Please be patient and consider what really is in the best interest of workers in this election. I am sure you will make the right choice — but be careful what you wish for!

President Obama Tells AFL-CIO Executive Council, “We’re On the Right Track”

On August 4, 2010, President Barack Obama addressed the AFL-CIO Executive Council meeting in Washington, D.C., saying that his administration is working with organized labor to better the lives of hardworking men and women in this country and that “it’s going to take some time to reverse all that’s been done, but we’re on the right track.” Following are highlights of President Obama’s speech:

“It’s going to take some time to reverse all that’s been done, but we’re on the right track. We’re moving forward. And that’s what I’m going to want to talk to you about briefly today. Many of those who’ve been hit hardest by the economic upheaval of recent years have been the people that you represent. For generations, manufacturing was the ticket to a better life for the American worker.

But as the world became smaller, outsourcing, an easier way to increase profits, a lot of those jobs shifted to low-wage nations. So, many who held those jobs went to work in the construction industry, as we had the housing boom. But when the subprime mortgage crisis hit, when those mortgages were called up on Wall Street, that bubble burst, leaving devastation everywhere.

So now we’ve got millions of our fellow Americans swept up in that disaster — hardworking people who’ve been left to sit idle for months and even years as their lives have been turned upside down.

But I’m here to tell you, we are not giving up and we are not giving in. We are going to keep fighting for an economy that

works for everybody, not just for a privileged few. We want an economy that rewards, once again, people who work hard and fulfill their responsibilities, not just people who game the system. And that’s been at the heart of the economic plan that we put in place over the past year and a half.

And I want to thank the AFL-CIO for all you’ve done to fight for jobs, to fight for tax cuts for the middle class, to fight for reforms that will rein in the special interests, and to fight for policies that aren’t just going to rebuild this economy but are actually going to put us on a long-term path of sustainable growth that is good for all Americans.

Because of you, we’ve been able to get a lot done over the last 20 months. Together, we’re jumpstarting a new American clean energy industry — an industry with the potential to generate perhaps millions of jobs building wind turbines and solar panels, and manufacturing the batteries for the cars of the future, building nuclear plants, developing clean coal technology. There are

(Continued on page 6)

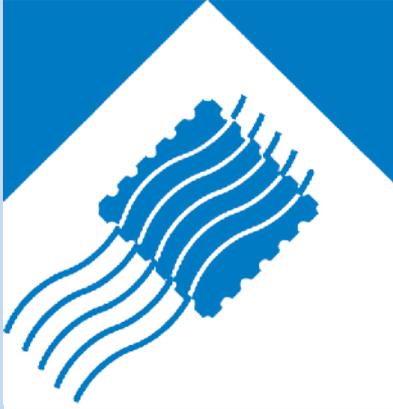
Key Obama Administration Accomplishments

- Signed into law comprehensive health care reform that makes health care more affordable, holds insurers more accountable, expands coverage to all Americans and makes our health system sustainable.
- Signed into law the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, giving women equal pay with men.
- Issued five pro-worker Executive Orders, including one that prohibits federal contractors from using government funds to block union organizing.
- Announced plan to end war in Iraq.
- Signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which is responsible for saving and/or creating 3.5 million jobs. (According to a *New York Times* article, “Stimulus Averted Depression,” September 2, 2010, Christina D. Romer, chairwoman of President Obama’s Council of Economic Advisers, is quoted as saying the administration’s stimulus policies averted a “second Great Depression”).
- Signed into law the Helping Families Save Their Homes Act to help families on the verge of foreclosure keep their homes.
- Signed into law the Credit Card Accountability, Responsibility and Disclosure (CARD) Act, the most sweeping reform of the financial sector since the 1930s.
- Signed into law the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, promoting financial stability by improving accountability and transparency in the financial system.



President Michael Goodwin greets President Barack Obama at the AFL-CIO Executive Council meeting on August 4, 2010.

Letters to the Editor



Again, we reprint letters from our members on various issues. We invite our readers to continue to share their opinions with us, whether in support of or in opposition to our own. Debate is healthy and welcomed in this union. Letters are edited for length only, not content. Remember: Anonymous letters will not be printed.

You can also reach us on the web:

www.opeiu.org

WHITE COLLAR

Official Organ of
OFFICE AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES
INTERNATIONAL UNION
affiliated with the AFL-CIO, CLC
<http://www.opeiu.org>

MICHAEL GOODWIN
President

MARY MAHONEY
Secretary-Treasurer



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Dear President Goodwin and Secretary-Treasurer Mahoney:

Today is Labor Day and it is the perfect time now that I am back in school to send you this letter. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to go to the OPEIU "Summer Camp" through the Romeo Corbeil/Gilles Beaugard scholarship fund. It has taught me much and inspired me to pursue a career as a union organizer and union leader. I am 16 years old, but I have been around unions my entire life, and just recently I have had the privilege of working as an intern for the Hawai'i Nurses' Association (HNA)/OPEIU Local 50.

But even though I spent a month working for an actual union, it didn't give me the same experience that the camp did. While at camp, I learned the fundamental importance of solidarity and that has not only just affected my views on unions, but my entire outlook on life and relationships between people. It was from this one concept that inspired and challenged me to give it my best shot at being an important part of the "campers union," and quite frankly, I surprised myself with what I was able to do.

Between the help of the staff and the classroom portions of the camp, I experienced how unions function and bargain with the employers. My role in our union was to negotiate a "contract" with the counselors. The Bargaining Committee consisted of myself and three other campers, me being the spokesperson for the committee. Over the course of two days, we successfully created the contract that satisfied both our union members and the counselors. In addition to the creation of the contract, my committee also worked on grievances.

I found this camp a huge inspiration and opportunity for me, and I hope I will be

considered as a candidate to return and learn more about the union movement by becoming a junior counselor next year. Again, thank you for this opportunity and all I have learned this year at camp!

In solidarity,
Cody D. Gibbs
Roanoke, Texas

To read more about Cody's experiences at the summer camp, see page 23.

Dear International President Goodwin:

I was gratified to read the tribute to Lillian Kaplan Cohen in the special *White Collar* issue. It is wonderful to see how much my union has progressed since its start.

Lillian was all the article mentioned and more. She was a member of the Century Village Palm Beach Chapter of the National Council of Senior Citizens since that begun, and when it became the West Palm Beach Club of the Florida Alliance for Retired Americans, Lillian was one of our members. [Her husband] Hyman Cohen was a board member as well as Sol Silverman who founded the El Sol Center mentioned in her coverage. Also Sol Stetin, founder of the House of Labor.

We have had many icons to revere and remember. Lillian was always clear in her thinking. She gave of herself in all the organizations, plus one special to me, the Alliance for Retired Americans.

I hope these remarks will be printed where we will find them easily. Thank you for your leadership.

Ruth Kushner
President

West Palm Beach Club of the Florida
Alliance for Retired Americans

**For more information about
the OPEIU, visit our website
at www.opeiu.org.**

OPEIU Member James Andrews Named to AFL-CIO Executive Council

On Wednesday, August 4, 2010 the AFL-CIO elected five new members to the Executive Council, including OPEIU member and North Carolina State AFL-CIO President James Andrews. He became the first full-time elected African-American state federation president in the AFL-CIO's history in 1998.

The other new members of the Executive Council include UAW President Bob King, UAW Vice President General Holiefield, AFSCME Secretary-Treasurer Lee Saunders, and Los Angeles County Federation of Labor Executive Secretary-Treasurer Maria Elena Durazo.

"OPEIU now has three members on the Executive Council," said International

President Michael Goodwin. "In addition to Brother Andrews, OPEIU is represented by me and Secretary-Treasurer Emerita Nancy Wohlforth. This kind of representation on the council is unprecedented and ensures that OPEIU's interests are protected, and that we have a significant influence on decisions that are made by the council that will affect OPEIU members."

OPEIU Members Participate in One Nation Working Together March

On October 2, 2010, OPEIU members joined tens of thousands of working people at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., as a part of One Nation Working Together, a grassroots coalition of human and civil rights organizations. The rally, comprised of more than

400 progressive organizations and attended by approximately 175,000 people, was part of a national call for good jobs, equal justice and a quality public education for all Americans. OPEIU members from all over the country traveled by bus and airplane to Washington, D.C., including members from

as far away as Hawaii.

Also on October 2, union families walked door-to-door in dozens of cities around the country to talk to co-workers about the choices in the November elections, calling for support for candidates who stand with working people on jobs, justice, and education.



OPEIU members join the One Nation Working Together March in Washington, D.C. on October 2, 2010.

New York Leads the Way in Union Membership!

New York leads the nation with 25 percent union membership — more than double the national average — according to a recent study conducted by the City University of New York.

The disparity is credited to high union membership among city and state public workers, even as union membership nationwide continues to decline. Nearly 70 percent of public-sector workers in New York City and 71 percent of state public employees belong to a union, compared with 37 percent of public workers nationwide. Sixteen percent of the city's private-sector workers are unionized, with 14 percent statewide, compared with 7 percent nationally.

President Obama Tells AFL-CIO Executive Council, “We’re On the Right Track”

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other countries that are fighting for those jobs, in China and India and in Germany and other parts of Europe. But the United States doesn’t play for second place. As long as I’m President, I’m going to keep fighting night and day to make sure that we win those jobs, that those are jobs that are created right here in the United States of America and that your members are put to work.

So the message I want to deliver to our competitors — and to those in Washington who’ve tried to block our progress at every step of the way — is that we are going to rebuild this economy stronger than before, and at the heart of it are going to be three powerful words: Made in America. Made in America.

That’s why we’re finally enforcing our trade laws — in some cases for the very first time. That’s why we’re fighting for tax breaks for companies that invest here in the United States as opposed to companies that are investing overseas or that keep their profits offshore. Because it is my belief — and I know it’s the belief of this room — that there are no better workers than U.S. workers. There are no better workers than your members. And they are absolutely committed to making sure that America is on the rise again. And we are going to keep moving forward with them — not moving backwards, but moving forward with them.

We’re going to have to cut taxes for middle-class families, and after a tough fight, we finally extended emergency unemployment assistance for folks who had lost their jobs. We passed the Fair Pay Act to help put a stop to pay discrimination. We’ve reversed the executive orders of the last administration that were designed to undermine organized labor. I’ve appointed folks who actually are fulfilling their responsibilities to make sure our workplaces are safe, whether in a mine or in an office, a factory or anyplace else. And we are going to keep on fighting to pass the Employee Free Choice Act.

With your help, we passed health reform, enshrining the idea that everybody in America should be able to get decent health care and shouldn’t go bankrupt when they

get sick — health reform that is preventing insurers from denying and dropping people’s coverage; that’s lowering the price of prescription drugs for our seniors. It’s going to make health care more affordable for everybody, including businesses, which means they can hire more workers.

Together, we passed Wall Street reform, to protect consumers in our financial system and put an end to taxpayer bailouts and stop the abuses that almost dragged our economy into another Great Depression.

Now, the steps we’re taking are making a difference, but the fact is it took us nearly a decade to dig ourselves into the hole that we’re in. It’s going to take a lot longer than any of us would like to climb out of that hole. And I’d be lying to you if I thought that all these changes are going to be happening overnight. We’ve still got some tough times ahead. And your members obviously are bearing the brunt of a lot of those tough times.

But here’s what we’re not going to do. We’re not going to go back to digging the hole. We’re not going to go back to the policies that took Bill Clinton’s surplus and in eight years turned it into record deficits. We’re not going back to policies that saw people working harder and harder but falling further and further behind. We’re not going back to policies that gave corporate special interests free rein to write their own rules, and produced the greatest economic crisis in generations. We are not going back to those ideas.

Because as hard as it is out there right now for a lot of folks, as far as we’ve got to go, what’s clear is that our nation is headed in the right direction. Our economy is growing again instead of shrinking. We’re adding jobs in the private sector instead of losing them. America is moving forward.

And we’re moving forward largely without any help from the opposition party — a party that has voted no on just about every turn. No on making college more affordable. No on clean energy jobs. No on broadband. No on high-speed rail. No on water and highway projects. That doesn’t stop them from showing up at the ribbon cuttings. It doesn’t stop them from sending out

press releases. They’ve even said no to tax cuts for small businesses and 95 percent of working families. They just said no to a small business tax cut again just last week.

And as if that was not enough, now they’re talking about repealing this and repealing that. I guess they want to go back to hidden credit card fees and mortgage penalties buried in the fine print. They want to go back to a system that allowed for taxpayer bailouts. They want to go back to allowing insurance companies to discriminate against people based on preexisting conditions. They would repeal the tax cuts for small businesses that provide health care for their employees. They want to go backwards; we want to move America forward.

And that’s what the choice is going to be in this upcoming election, and all your members need to understand it. I know if you’re talking to a lot of your locals, I’m sure they’re feeling like, boy, change is not happening fast enough; we are still hurting out here. They’re frustrated. They’ve got every right to be frustrated. And I am happy, as President of the United States, to take responsibility for making decisions now that are going to put us in a strong position down the road. And they need to know that, that we’re going to be working with you to make sure that we’re putting ourselves in a position where folks are working and working for a good wage and good benefits.

Even in these difficult times, I remain confident about our future...because of the workers that I meet all across this country, members of your unions who get up every morning and put in a hard day’s work to build a company, build a future, support their families.

As Americans, they don’t give up. They don’t quit. I don’t give up. I don’t quit. The AFL-CIO does not give up. It does not quit. If we stand together, then I am absolutely confident that we are going to rebuild America, not just to where it was before this financial crisis, but stronger than it has ever been. That is a commitment that I am making to you. Thank you for the commitment that you’ve made to me. God bless you. Thank you.”

Giving Thanks



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25th OPEIU Convention Highlights

Following are highlights of the 25th OPEIU Convention, held June 21-24, 2010 in Washington, D.C., with the theme “Diversity is Our Strength.”

OPEIU Officers Sworn In For Next Term



Newly elected OPEIU officers are sworn in by International Vice President Emerita Judith Zenk. Pictured standing are International Vice Presidents Dan Dyer (Region II), Suzanne Mode (Region VI), Green P. Lewis (Diversity – Region III), Cindy Jeffries (Region VII), John F. Conley (Region III), Walter Allen Jr. (Region V), Tamara Rubyn (Region V), Richard Lanigan (Region II), Secretary-Treasurer Mary Mahoney, Allen Byron (Region II), President Michael Goodwin, Greg Blackman (Region III), Patricia Priloh (Region II), John Mattiacci, DPM (Region II), Becky Turner (Region IV), Christine Page (Diversity – Region V), Aaron Sanders (Region VII), Darshan Nair (Region I) and Theresa Kandt (Diversity – Region VII).

Following adoption of a resolution calling for an additional Vice President position to represent Canada, delegates elected the fourteenth Vice President from the newly created Region I.

Diversity is Our Strength, Says President Goodwin

“I am here to report that the state of the union is strong as we continue to grow and negotiate sound contracts for our members, and that because of our activities, OPEIU is receiving more and more respect than ever before from our peers in the labor movement,” President Michael Goodwin said in his address to convention delegates.

Goodwin also reported that because of a forward-thinking approach to organizing, OPEIU membership has increased from 80,000 just a few years ago to 108,000 today. “In 2010 alone, we have added more than 4,500 members to our ranks.”

Goodwin reported that OPEIU has had many organizing successes over the last three years, and one of the bigger victories came on June 18, 2010 when the ruling was

made that the affiliation of the Hawai’i Nurses’ Association was valid. “The Hawai’i Nurses’ Association belongs in OPEIU,” declared Goodwin to a big round of applause from the delegates.

Goodwin spoke of OPEIU’s commitment to diversity, as evidenced by the convention theme “Diversity is Our Strength,” noting that OPEIU amended the constitution to ensure that the national and Local Union leadership reflects the gender and ethnic composition of our membership, including women, various cultures and ethnicities, as well as the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community. “Everybody is welcome in this union,” said Goodwin.

“We’re also very diverse in the range of occupations of the members we represent and the diversity of professions,” continued Goodwin. “Our membership includes



**International President
Michael Goodwin**

doctors of podiatric medicine, clinical social work practitioners, chiropractors, registered nurses, teachers, helicopter pilots, umpires,

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Diversity is Our Strength, Says President Goodwin

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health care employees, management and confidential employees, public employees, service contract workers, taxi drivers, parimutuel clerks, administrative assistants, clerical employees and hypnotists. That's why we are the most diverse union in the United States and selected "Diversity is Our Strength" as our convention theme."

Goodwin also noted that OPEIU has settled the 2004 Canadian secession issue and continues to rebuild in Canada. "We are very proud of Local 386 in Thunder Bay, Ontario

who stood with OPEIU and refused to go along with the Canadian secession." He then recognized Larry Kopechanski and Greg Polhill from Local 386 for their commitment to OPEIU in resisting the secession.

On the legislative front, Goodwin said that OPEIU is committed to seeing passage of the Employee Free Choice Act as soon as possible, continuing the fight to ensure that the new health care reform law is amended to include the 15 million people living in the United States who remain without health care coverage, and to urging Congress to find new

ways to keep jobs in the United States to eliminate the high level of unemployment.

Goodwin then spoke of the OPEIU's membership benefits program, saying it is an innovative organizing tool that OPEIU has been using to great success in the past three years. He then announced the addition of a new benefit for all OPEIU members, a towing/service call benefit that allows for two free tows or service calls per year valued at up to \$100 each. "This benefit is not only for the member, but for any family member living in the member's household," said Goodwin.

Diversity is the Right Thing to Do, Says Shuler

AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Liz Shuler opened her address to delegates by congratulating OPEIU on its growing membership, noting that it is a tremendous and difficult accomplishment in today's age of layoffs and outsourcing.

She then recognized the convention theme, "Diversity is Our Strength," saying that "OPEIU understands diversity in the broadest sense of the word. It means gender balance and racial and ethnic diversity on your board as well as among your membership.

"It also means looking to new job classifications and types of industries to grow your membership," Shuler continued. "For a union that traditionally consisted of office employees, it took a concerted effort to

reach out to race track clerks, to podiatrists, to umpires, to helicopter pilots and nurses.

"Aside from being a smart strategy, it's the right thing to do," Shuler said. "No job is too minor. No job is too great. Everyone deserves the immense benefits of joining together with colleagues to form a union. It's true that diversity is our strength, as well as the key to our future." Shuler recognized OPEIU as a leader in the area of diversity, and congratulated and thanked us for that.

Shuler also congratulated OPEIU for embracing diversity by reaching out to young workers by holding a Youth Initiative Workshop on Saturday, June 19 for delegates and guests aged 35 and under, and for sending representatives to the AFL-CIO's

first-ever Youth Summit held in Washington on June 10-13, 2010.

"Our charge is to continue to bring new people into our movement who share that commitment, and to improve life for all working families. I thank you all for what you're doing to make that happen," said Shuler.



**AFL-CIO
Secretary-Treasurer
Liz Shuler**

New Affiliates Receive Charters, Certificates



OPEIU's new affiliates — the Hawai'i Nurses' Association (HNA/OPEIU Local 50), the Association of Minor League Umpires (AMLU/OPEIU Guild 322), and Global Helicopter Pilots Association (GHPA/OPEIU Local 103) were granted official charters from OPEIU. The Independent Association of Pari-Mutuel Employees (IAPME) and Canadian Helicopter Limited (CHL) received certificates as Directly Affiliated Groups. Pictured left to right are OPEIU Director of Organization and Field Services Kevin Kistler; AMLU President Shaun Francis; IAPME Executive Board Member Argelio Duran; HNA Executive Director and CEO Patt Gibbs and Secretary Marina Robinson; President Michael Goodwin; HNA Treasurer Elayne Schwartz, Vice President Robin Tanner and President Joan Craft; GHPA Second Vice President Norm Robichaud; CHL Unit Chair and International Vice President for Region I Darshan Nair; and GHPA President James Whately.

ITPE And FCT Honored For Their Contributions



ITPE/OPEIU Local 4873 was honored with a tribute in recognition of their contribution to the service workers of America employed by contractors of the U.S. Government and other employees, and in appreciation of their affiliation with OPEIU. ITPE represents more than 14,000 workers. Pictured left to right are OPEIU Organizer David Flores, OPEIU Organizer Cesar Mendia, Local 4873 Vice President Paul Harvey and Secretary-Treasurer Dennis Arrington, USW Assistant to the President Bernie Hostein, Local 4873 President John F. Conley and Representatives and Executive Board Members-at-Large Lena Bailey, Cindy Diehm and T. Ruthie Jones, and OPEIU President Goodwin.



The Federation of Catholic Teachers (FCT)/OPEIU Local 153 was honored for its contributions to the children of the Archdiocese of New York by providing top quality educational services, and in appreciation for their affiliation with Local 153. FCT represents more than 3,000 teachers. Pictured left to right are President Goodwin with the FCT delegation, including Former Treasurer Edwina Dunne, Former President Michele MacDonald, President Pat Gabriel, Local 153 Secretary-Treasurer Richard Lanigan, Organizer Julia Pignataro, Immediate Former President Mary-Ann Perry, Counsel William Russo, Treasurer John McEvelly, and Vice President Eileen Sweeney.

Radio Host Stephanie Miller Says We Need Unions More Than Ever!

Progressive radio personality Stephanie Miller got the delegates thinking — and laughing — when she addressed the convention.

“I’m a big Obama fan, but we still need to speak out for things such as the Employee Free Choice Act,” said Miller. “We did get health care, and no other president in 60 years has been able to do that.”

The host of the syndicated “Stephanie Miller Show” pledged that she would do her part to speak out for union workers. “With the mining disaster and the recent

BP oil disaster, was there ever a time in this country’s history when it was clearer that we need unions?” asked Miller. “We need someone to look out for worker safety and hold these corporations accountable.”

Miller then stressed the importance of the November mid-term elections, noting that there are a number of big issues at stake, including the Arizona immigration law, Employee Free Choice Act and expansion of health care legislation to include the 15 million people living in this country not covered by the new law.



Radio personality Stephanie Miller shows x-rays of her foot, which she broke two days before addressing the OPEIU convention.

OPEIU Bestows Emerita/Emeritus Status



In appreciation for loyal and dedicated service to the members of OPEIU, the Convention bestowed the title of Secretary-Treasurer Emerita to Nancy Wohlforth, Vice President Emeritus to Philip Pope and Vice President Emerita to Judith Zenk. Pictured from left to right are Zenk, Wohlforth, Pope and President Michael Goodwin.

Long-Service Members Honored



The convention honored five members with more than 40 years of service to OPEIU. Pictured left to right are Vice President Patricia Priloh, Local 457, Centerville, Pennsylvania; Mike L. Richards, Local 11, Portland, Oregon; Elvira V.M. Acosta, Local 319, Tucson, Arizona; President Goodwin; and Vice President John F. Conley, Local 4873, Savannah, Georgia. Not pictured is Mary Ellen Bell, Local 212, Buffalo, New York.

Young Members are Future Leaders



Christian Hains (pictured right), Council Coordinator of OPEIU Midwest United Local 2009 and Nick Galipeau, Local 153 Business Representative reported to the convention about the AFL-CIO’s “Next Up” Youth Initiative Conference. Hains and Galipeau are OPEIU’s representatives to the AFL-CIO Youth Initiative. OPEIU also held its own Youth Initiative Workshop on Saturday, June 19, 2010, which was well attended by delegates and guests aged 35 and under.

Representative Sestak Thanks OPEIU for Support

Representative Joseph Sestak (D-PA) thanked OPEIU for supporting him in his current Senate bid, and promised to continue to fight for OPEIU members and their families. In the recent Democratic primary, Sestak handily beat incumbent Arlen Specter (D-PA), who was hoping for a sixth term. OPEIU took the unusual step of supporting Rep. Sestak in his primary bid against an incumbent because of his support of the Employee Free Choice Act, health care and other worker-friendly legislation.

“Thank you for supporting me when others wouldn’t lend their support,” said Rep. Sestak. “I intend every day to pay you back for your belief in me as your public servant. I don’t care if I lose my job over doing the right thing.

“I am not a politician,” Rep. Sestak continued. “I want to be a public servant.”

Rep. Sestak then pledged to be available to OPEIU members anytime they need him. “My office is open seven days a week. We keep that office open because people are hurting. For example, through no fault of their own, more than 850 people have walked into my office because their homes have been foreclosed. My office was able to salvage 60 percent of them, but 40 percent still lost their homes.

“We may not always agree, but you will always know where I stand,” pledged Rep. Sestak. “And if we’re not agreeing at least 97 percent of the time, then I’m wrong. And I promise to always have a conversation with you where I listen.”

Rep. Sestak concluded by saying he was



Rep. Joseph Sestak (D-PA)

fortunate to stand before OPEIU and be honored by the convention. “You don’t talk, you actually do,” he said.

Ackerman Says 2010 Election Is All About Jobs!

AFL-CIO Political Director Karen Ackerman told delegates that while labor has accomplished a great deal in the past years since President Obama’s election, much still needs to be done to achieve the rest of labor’s agenda.

“We’ve already accomplished a lot,” said Ackerman, “but we have a long way to go, and achieving the rest of our agenda depends on winning in 2010.”

Ackerman pointed out that unemployment is continuing to drop slightly, but the unemployment rate is still close to double digits. “Fewer Americans are feeling better about their personal financial situation, but the wealthy are prospering as never before,” said Ackerman. “Bank CEO’s are still bringing home the bacon, and these big banks are the focus of the public’s anger. Labor, including OPEIU, has stood up to Wall Street and it paid off with the passage

of the Financial Reform bill.”

Ackerman also pointed out that these CEOs and banks, along with other anti-worker forces are fighting labor’s agenda at every step, making the November midterm elections so important. “The 2010 election is about jobs, jobs, jobs,” said Ackerman. “Americans favor more action on jobs, and across all parties, voters are more concerned about jobs than the deficit.

“And a lot is at stake in these elections,” continued Ackerman. “Our hard-won pro-worker majority in Congress could be in danger, as well as key governorships and state legislatures.”

But there is a roadmap that labor can and will follow to victory, she said, that will mean mobilizing our members to “build a durable political power this year, next year and beyond!”

Ackerman praised OPEIU for its com-



**AFL-CIO Political Director
Karen Ackerman**

mitment to member mobilization in past elections, and noted that she knows OPEIU will be equally committed as we approach the November elections.

You Were There With Us, Says Rodriguez

“When they attacked us, you were with us,” said United Farm Workers (UFW) President Arturo Rodriguez when describing his union’s organizing victories through the years. “OPEIU has been a part of those victories, and I want to thank you for all the support you’ve given us over the years.”

Rodriguez then explained that food supply has become a global issue.

“It’s important that we work to improve standards not only in California where our members are located, but around the world, to ensure a safe and secure food supply.” Thus, said Rodriguez, solidarity with workers around the world, and with their unions, is vital.



**United Farm Workers President
Arturo Rodriguez thanks
OPEIU for its support.**

Meet Organizer David Flores

In the last issue of *White Collar*, OPEIU Organizer David Flores was inadvertently omitted from the list of International Representatives and Organizers. The editor apologizes for the error, and would like to share a bit of information about Flores.

Flores has been a union member since the age of 15, and an organizer since 21. Prior to joining OPEIU in 2006, Flores was with the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC), the International Brotherhood of Carpenters and the Service Employees International Union (SEIU).



OPEIU Organizer David Flores

OPEIU Recognizes Outstanding Achievements in Organizing and Political Action

OPEIU recognized Local Union officers, staff and members for outstanding achievement in union activism, organizing and political action since the last convention. President Michael Goodwin and Director of Organization and Field Services Kevin Kistler are pictured with these deserving recipients, as follows:

Henderson B. Douglas Memorial 2008 Award – Local 8, Seattle, Washington



International Vice President for Region VI and Local 8 Business Manager Suzanne Mode and Organizing Director/ Secretary-Treasurer Cindy Schu.

Triennial Gold Organizing Award – Cesar Mendia, ITPE/OPEIU Local 4873, Savannah, Georgia



Arrington, OPEIU Organizer Cesar Mendia and Conley.

Henderson B. Douglas Memorial 2009 Award – ITPE/OPEIU Local 4873, Savannah, Georgia



ITPE/OPEIU Local 4873 Secretary-Treasurer Dennis Arrington and President John F. Conley, who also serves as International Vice President for Region III.

Triennial Silver Organizing Award – Greg Blackman, GSAF/ OPEIU Local 100, Miramar, Florida



GSAF/OPEIU Local 100 President and Vice President for Region III Greg Blackman.

**Triennial Bronze Organizing Award
– Christian Hains and Brian Reid,
OPEIU Midwest United Local
2009, Chicago, Illinois**



OPEIU Midwest United Local 2009 Council Coordinator Christian Hains and Representative Brian Reid.

**Certificate of Achievement –
Local 2, Washington, D.C.**



International Vice President and Local 2 President Dan Dyer.

**Certificate of Achievement –
Local 29, Oakland, California**



International Vice President and Local 29 President/Business Manager Tamara Rubyn.

**Special Organizing Award –
Bruce Wade, Canadian
Helicopters Limited (CHL)**



Bruce Wade, Voluntary Organizer, Canadian Helicopters Limited (CHL).

**Special Recognition Award –
Local 459, Lansing, Michigan**



International Vice President and Local 459 Service Representative Cindy Jeffries, President Kevin Nix and Service Representative Joe Marutiak. Not pictured: Service Representative Lance Rhines.

**Special Recognition Awards –
Kevin Kistler and Walter Allen Jr.**



International Vice President and Local 30 Executive Director/CFO Walter Allen Jr. and OPEIU Director of Organization and Field Services Kevin Kistler.

J.B. MOSS VOICE OF THE ELECTORATE

OPEIU also presented the 2010 J.B. Moss Voice of the Electorate (VOTE) Fund Awards. Vice President Becky Turner and President Goodwin are pictured with the winners, as follows:

J.B. Moss VOTE Fund Memorial Award – Government Supervisors Association of Florida GSAF/OPEIU Local 100, Miramar, Florida



International Vice President GSAF/OPEIU Local 100 President Greg Blackman.

J.B. Moss VOTE Fund Silver Award – Local 42, Detroit, Michigan



International Vice President and Local 42 Secretary-Treasurer/Business Agent Theresa Kandt, Local 42 President Lisa Blake, Trustee Susan Reed and Vice President Duane Spencer.

J.B. Moss VOTE Fund Gold Award – Local 494, Detroit, Michigan



Local 494 President Kris Bucci and Trustee Laura Winiarski.

J.B. Moss VOTE Fund Bronze Award – Local 537, Burbank, California



Local 537 Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer Jacqueline White-Brown and Business Representative Lynnette T. Howard.

Helicopter Pilots Fly High with OPEIU

To the sounds of helicopter blades and Wagner's "The Ride of the Valkyries," the Professional Helicopter Pilots Association (PHPA) delegation marched into the convention hall to be honored by OPEIU.

PHPA pilots from Local Unions 102, 107, 108, 109, Canadian Helicopter Limited (CHL) and Global Helicopter Pilots Association (GHPA)/Local 103 were honored for their hard work and dedication to bringing the benefits of unionism to their fellow pilots.



The Professional Helicopter Pilots Association pilots Steve Rush, Ken Bruner, OPEIU Senior International Representative Paul Bohelski, Chris Bingham, PHPA President Butch Grafton, Pete Catalano, Nathan Stowell, Mel Saylor, Dan McDade, Robert Box, International Vice President and CHL Chair Darshan Nair and James Whately.

Steve Rush Receives Special Recognition Award



OPEIU/PHPA Local 102 President Steve Rush receives a special recognition award for his great contributions to the union and for leading the PHPA pilots into OPEIU. The award recognized Rush for his participation in establishing the PHPA Council in March 2002 and his

assistance in organizing campaigns, collective bargaining and facilitating group long-term disability benefits for the pilots in Local 102.

Local Union News

OPEIU Mourns Loss of MAGE President Dale Threehouse

OPEIU is mourning the loss of Dale Threehouse, President of the Michigan Association of Governmental Employees (MAGE)/OPEIU Local 2002, who died on August 30, 2010 at the age of 65. Threehouse served as MAGE president in the 1980s, and again from 2003 until his death.

Threehouse lived and worked in the Flint and Lapeer areas of Michigan all his life. He worked for the *Flint Journal* and retired from the State of Michigan as

District Manager in the Office of Child Support. He was one of the founders of MAGE in 1980, and spent the next 30 years working to protect the rights and promote the interests of classified employees in Michigan.

“Dale was dedicated to his members and to the organization he helped create,” said International President Michael Goodwin. “He will be greatly missed, and his influence on MAGE and OPEIU will be felt for years to come.”



Dale Threehouse

State of Michigan Reneges on Compensation Agreement with MAGE

“Once again, International President Michael Goodwin and the International Union have come through for MAGE/OPEIU Local 2002 in their time of need,” said MAGE President Dale Threehouse, prior to his death on August 30. In 2007, MAGE negotiated a three-year agreement with the State of Michigan that included a 3 percent raise in October 2010. In 2009, the state, facing an insurmountable budget deficit, unilaterally rescinded the raise while maintaining the raise for subordinates of MAGE members in the rank and file (MAGE represents managers, supervisors and confi-

dential employees).

“This injustice will not stand,” said Threehouse. “We’ll fight this through arbitration and the courts and the legislature. We’ll take it to the State Supreme Court if we must. We’ll use every resource available, from our experienced staff who were here when this same travesty occurred in the early ’80s, to our revered legal counsel.”

State of Michigan managers, supervisors and confidential employees are precluded from bargaining collectively. As in many other states, the rules prescribe that they possess limited recognition rights. These rights provide that agree-

ments may be negotiated during the Coordinated Compensation Process, which addresses future compensation and working conditions.

“An agreement is an agreement,” said Goodwin. “If a party agrees to something and specifies it in writing and signs it, it should be followed. This is exactly why the International Union is here,” Goodwin told MAGE members. “We will be assisting MAGE in this noble fight.”

Response briefs have been filed for the recently concluded Unfair Labor Practice hearing and a hearing is pending in the Court of Claims.

Local 3 Gears Up for November Election

After a membership meeting held July 27, 2010, several Local 3 members pose for a “How do you say Jerry?” photograph to show Local 3’s support for California’s gubernatorial candidate, Jerry Brown. The photo was sent to www.jerrybrown.org to join hundreds of other photos from energetic and creative Brown supporters. Brown is in a critical gubernatorial race in California against Republican Meg Whitman, and has spent a lifetime in government service protecting and advancing the causes and issues of working people and the environment. His opponent, the former CEO of Ebay, has spent more than \$100 million on her campaign. “Local 3 members enthusiastically stepped up to support and offer dozens of boots on the ground, ready to campaign for Jerry to ensure an equitable and prosperous future for all Californians,” said Local 3 Secretary-Treasurer Conny Ford.



Local Union News

Hollywood's Local 174 Union Saves Jobs from Outsourcing

After a year-long negotiation by Local 174 against outsourcing jobs within the recording industry, an agreement was reached where the jobs were saved. All members covered by the contract, which can trace back to Decca Records and the charter of Local 174 in 1946, stayed employed throughout the very difficult year wherein the employer's top priority was to outsource the work in certain areas.

"The membership was exemplary in its patience on this contact," said Christine Page, OPEIU International Vice President for Diversity-Region V and Local 174 Business Representative of the entertainment contracts. "There were serious implications of the medical plan that required additional monies by the employer and that were on hold until the outsourcing issue was resolved one way or the other. We were determined, after we saw the devastation at Warner Brothers Theatrical on this same issue, to not back down. The members supported us during this challenging issue and that was significant."

The concern was it would have the domino

effect on the entire bargaining unit once the first sector of employees was gone. Outsourcing may be an initial spike for stockholders but many economic specialists have indicated, in the long run, it is ruinous on many levels for America, said Page. The Union and the employer were able to resolve the conflict by a multi-step process, should the issue of outsourcing arise in the future. This allows Local 174 time to counter and work for different resolutions, including restructuring, retraining and technological changes. The employer is now able to better meet its quickly changing business needs, which are formidable: piracy, consumer shifts and attendance fluctuations for concert tours.

"The record industry needs to survive and grow into the new avenues for music to reach the consumer and appropriate compensation for all who worked to that end and members of our Union need to stay employed," said Local 174 President Manny Ortiz. "If we can arrive at language that better secures this outcome, we will continue to survive as individual members and as a Union."

A new agreement was reached where higher medical costs were paid by the employer, as well as a partial transfer of employer-funded benefits on behalf of the participant. In addition, confirmed additional medical costs in the future will also be absorbed by the employer. Those employees slated for layoff through outsourcing will be retained and any future review will have the participation and input of Local 174.

"In part, this is the new reality," said Page. "We must work to resolve these issues even if it takes months of hard bargaining because the alternative is devastating." In so many cases today, in the long run, Hollywood will continue to produce films, music, television, as well as other venues, for decades to come. This industry tells the stories and brings the music that lift spirits around the world as witnessed by sales in the domestic and international markets where these performances are seen. "Without a doubt, we want to continue to be a part of this great industry and our members to have the ability to support their families. It's well worth the fight," added Page.

Accident Victim Thanks His Rescuers

Brian Donato has no memory of the men who saved his life after a tree he was cutting down suddenly split in half and crashed onto his neck, collapsing both of his lungs and breaking several ribs and vertebrae.

But four months later, he was happy to thank two of the four emergency responders who airlifted him to a hospital in Toronto, Canada, among them OPEIU International Vice President Darshan Nair.

A pilot, Nair is also the Unit Chair of the Canadian Helicopter Limited (CHL) unit. Nair, and fellow rescuer David Maynard, a flight paramedic, both are employed by Ornge, an air ambulance organization based in Mississauga, Canada.

"The guys basically pulled me out from underneath the tree and flew me to Sunnybrook hospital within an hour," Donato said. "If it wasn't for them, there's just no doubt . . . I wouldn't even be here

today."

The accident left the former ski instructor paralyzed from the waist down and in June, he was admitted to Toronto Rehab's Lyndhurst Centre, which specializes in spinal cord rehabilitation.

Donato thanked the two men profusely and expressed his admiration for their line of work. He always notices now when medical helicopters fly overhead, he said.

OPEIU Mourns Loss of Local 109 Pilot Alex Kelly

OPEIU is mourning the loss of Air Methods Corp. Local 109 Pilot Alex Kelly, who died on Tuesday, July 27, 2010 when the medical helicopter he was flying for LifeNet crashed into a Tucson, Arizona neighborhood on its way home to Douglas from Marana.

"July 27 was a sad day for all OPEIU pilots, especially the pilots at Air Methods Corp., with the loss of Alex Kelly,"

International President Michael Goodwin said. "We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family and friends."

Kelly, 61, had more than 40 years of flying experience. He learned how to fly his first helicopter in Army boot camp, flew in Vietnam and served in the Air National Guard. Prior to joining LifeNet in 2002, Kelly retired from his position as Supervisor of Tucson Air Operations.

Local Union News

AMLU/OPEIU Guild 322 Efforts to “Strike Out” Prostate Cancer



Shaun Francis, President of the Association of Minor League Umpires (AMLU)/OPEIU Guild 322 and International President Michael Goodwin present a check for \$5,000 to “Ed Randall’s Bat for the Cure” at a luncheon on Tuesday, September 21, 2010 in New York City. During Father’s Day weekend (June 19-20), more than 200 Minor League umpires opened their personal checkbooks and donated 1 cent for every pitch thrown at their Minor League baseball games. Additionally, OPEIU pledged to match the umpires’ donations. Pictured from left to right are AMLU/OPEIU Guild 322 member Brian Sinclair and President Francis, World Umpires Association (WUA) Major League umpire Mike Everitt, Bat for the Cure Founder Ed Randall, WUA Major League umpires Tim McClelland and Adrian Johnson, and Goodwin.

Canadian Helicopter Limited EMS Engineers Join Union

On May 20, 2010, helicopter mechanics employed by Canadian Helicopter Limited (CHL), the EMS division, were certified as members of OPEIU, according to International Vice President and CHL Unit Chair Captain Darshan Nair.

These engineers, as they are referred to in Canada, maintain a fleet of Sikorsky S-76 helicopter ambulances that are flown by helicopter pilots represented by OPEIU.

Local 277 Honors 20-Year Member



OPEIU Vice President and Local 277 President Becky Turner (left) presents American Income Life Insurance Company (AIL) Massachusetts Representative Robin Andrade with her 20-year OPEIU service pin on July 28 in Dallas, Texas.

Priceless Gift from Iraq War Veteran

OPEIU Senior International Representative Paul Bohelski received a priceless gift from Local 108 member Captain Craig Hilton, a pilot at CareFlite, now on military leave of absence, who was actively serving in Iraq at the time.

Captain Hilton gave Bohelski a United States flag, and its accompanying Certification of Dedication, dated January 3, 2009. “It was such an honor for me to receive this keepsake,” said Bohelski. “I could not vocally express my heartfelt gratitude without becoming emotional. Ultimately, this recognition is the highest level of gratitude one could ever expect and it is with great appreciation that I will always consider its value as immeasurable in my heart.”



The United States flag Certification of Dedication, dated January 3, 2009.

Local Union News

Local 108 Bids Farewell to Pilot

On July 27, 2010, Local 108 said farewell to Captain Joseph Prasad, a member of the Local Union's CareFlite Pilot Committee. Prasad, a CareFlite airplane pilot, was also a union member and volunteer for two years. The event was held in Grapevine, Texas.

Prasad was no stranger to CareFlite; he had worked at CareFlite before his rehire in 2008. Even during his earlier employment with the company, when he was not a union member, he supported Local 108 by helping to craft an amendment to the collective bargaining agreement (CBA) that provided for the inclusion of CareFlite's airplane pilots as part of the group of helicopter line pilots represented by OPEIU at the company.

When Prasad returned to CareFlite in 2008 he quickly became a union member, now that CareFlite's airplane pilots were covered by the CBA. From that moment forward, he was active in the Local Union, volunteering and supporting OPEIU and his fellow line pilots at CareFlite.

Because CareFlite's airplane operation was somewhat separate from CareFlite's principal

helicopter operation, it had always been difficult for the Union to develop a strong bond with its airplane pilots. This problem disappeared when Prasad stepped up to provide a steady stream of information flowing between the Local Union and its airplane pilots.

But he didn't stop there. He later became a member of the Union's Negotiating Committee with the responsibility of ensur-

ing that the pilots are fairly represented at the bargaining table.

"I know I speak for every member of our committee, and many non-contract nurses and paramedics at CareFlite, when I say that it has been our pleasure to work with Joe and we wish him all the very best going forward," said Senior International Representative Paul Bohelski.



Pictured left to right are Captain and Union Steward William (Bill) Murphy, OPEIU Senior International Representative Paul Bohelski, Captain Richard Andro, Captain Jerry Porter, Captain and Committee Chair Roger Catlin, Captain Joseph Prasad, Captain Uli Adrian, and Captain and Union Steward Scott Schoenhardt.

Fairleigh Dickinson Employees Settle Arbitration

On August 18, 2010, Local 153 members from Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU) voted to settle a six-month struggle involving compensation.

Under the collective bargaining agreement with FDU, all Local 153 members, which are the only unionized workforce on the University's Teaneck and Madison, New Jersey campuses, are entitled to receive any "me too" increases. The "me too" clause is triggered when the non-union professional administrative staff receive a base wage increase greater than two percent.

The union was officially notified of the non-union increases, which were divided into segments of 1.5 percent and \$1,000, immediately following Local 153's successful resistance of the University's attempts to reclaim a \$1,000 bonus payment to union members in June 2009 and refusal to pay contractually obligated "me too" increases.

At arbitration it was discovered that the non-union increases were not included in base wages, or simply amounted to a one-time bonus, which greatly devalues their worth to the employees because, unlike base wage increases, bonuses are not compounded during the employees' lifetime term of employment. So, recognizing that union members enjoy the unique experience at FDU of receiving annual, compounded wage increases, and under no circumstances would want to be tied to a mere bonus, Local 153 Business Representative Nick Galipeau approached FDU to

explore alternative methods of settling the arbitration case.

In exchange for the Union dropping its grievance, the university agreed to pay full-time union members \$400 and \$225 for part-time members. As part of the negotiated settlement with the University, the membership also agreed to defer its 2010 general wage increase from November 2010 to January 2011.

Local 5 Swears in New Officers



Local 5, Commerce City, California, swears in its newly elected officers. Pictured from left to right are Trustee Jean Daniel, Trustee Pam Johnson, Trustee Debbie Bentley, Recording Secretary Michael O'Connell, Vice President Lynn Aeverman, Secretary-Treasurer Rita Burns, and President Christine Kirschenman. The President of IAM Local Lodge 1886, Terri Crandall, did the honors.



WASHINGTON WINDOW

The Recession is Over... Yeah, Right!

The National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), the official “declarer” of such things – even if it is only a group of private economists in Massachusetts – declared on September 20 that the Great Recession is over, and it ended, statistically, 15 months ago.

They also said it was the longest such slump, of a year and half, since the Great Depression, and admitted the “recovery” hasn’t exactly been a ball of fire, either.

In the NBER economists’ academic language: “The committee did not conclude that economic conditions since that month” the recession ended, June 2009, “have been favorable or that the economy has returned to operating at normal capacity.”

Pardon the expression, but for workers, the response is “Yeah, right... and I’ve got a bridge I want to sell you.” Statistics back us up, too. Let’s look at the numbers:

- In January 2001, on the day GOP presidential nominee George W. Bush entered the White House, unemployment was 4 percent and there were 5.956 million jobless.

Neither the unemployment rate, which quickly zoomed to higher than 8 percent in that first Bush slump, nor the number of jobless were ever that low again during his entire eight-year reign. By the time Bush

left, the jobless rate in the second slump, which we call the Bush Crash – because his policies and those of his business backers caused it – was rising above 8 percent. Now, it’s 9.6 percent and more than 14 million people are out of jobs.

- Income is flat, or declining. The Census Bureau reported last week that median income last year, in the midst of the Bush Crash, was \$49,800. That’s the same as it was in 2008 – and a 4.2 percent drop from 2007. It’s declining by at least 5 percent ever since 2000, starting almost literally the day Bush walked into the Oval Office.

- Income isn’t the only thing that’s been flat. How about your IRA, or your 401(k)? They’re invested in the stock market, remember? And the stock market has taken a beating ever since the Bush Crash began in December 2007.

- CareerBuilder.com, the Internet-based job search engine, put out an interesting report the other day. It said a huge majority of jobless workers who were offered new posts and who turned them down – which admittedly is a minority of all jobless workers – did so because the new jobs would have cut their pay by at least 25 percent. Faced with slashes like that, 92 percent of those unemployed preferred to keep looking.

- The Census Bureau reports record numbers of the poor – one of every seven people – and uninsured, one of every six. That’s 50.7 million people. Almost 4 million people joined each group in 2009. And that doesn’t even count people who have seen medical inflation skyrocket for the past decade, while employers and insurers force those of us with insurance to pay more of the bills for everything from aspirin to surgery.

We draw one conclusion from all this: NBER, and everybody else, got it wrong.

Or, as analyst Bruce Stokes wrote in *CongressDaily*: “For many Americans, there is no longer a bounce after a downturn. There is simply a crash landing.”

We agree, saying the crash for workers started on or about January 20, 2001, with an especially deep slump from December 2007 to June 2009.

All you have to do is look around you and realize this: For workers, the recession never stopped. We know who to blame for it — Bush and his business and political pals.

And yet these are the same politicians, minus Bush himself, who, this November, want you to give them and their business backers control of Congress again. What do they think we the people are? Stupid? Or crazy?

Send Us Your Email Address and Fax Number!

OPEIU is updating its membership email and fax lists! If you haven’t already, please email, fax or mail this form to:

White Collar

Attn: Nicole Korkolis

OPEIU

Email: frontdesk@opeiu.org; Fax: 212-727-3466

80 Eighth Avenue, 20th Floor

New York, N.Y. 10011

Name _____ Local Union _____

Email Address _____ Fax Number _____

Work and Health

President Obama's Health Care Plan: A Brief Explanation

Submitted by **Jeffrey S. Freed, M.D.**

**Associate Professor of Surgery, The Mount Sinai School of Medicine, NYC
OPEIU Local 153 Health Fund Medical Director**

With all the discussion about Obama's health care plan, the media has done little to describe the details of the plan. So to inform my readership, a brief summary of the actual plan and its evolution is presented.

Everybody agrees our health care system is broken. In truth, what we all agree on is that health care insurance is too expensive, that it is often difficult to obtain, especially if you have a pre-existing illness, and often it is a problem finding a physician who participates in your insurance plan. The U.S. has a complicated health care system of insurance, doctors, and patients. If you go to the doctor in America, you have to pay the doctor, the insurance company, and fight about who pays who and how much.

America has the most expensive health care system in the world, yet ranks 37 in the world in health care performance and 72 in the world in overall level of national health. Little is said about our need to treat a very heterogeneous population with people who do not necessarily have any sophistication or education in maintaining their health. Health care costs are rising three times the rate of wages, so people are unable to keep up with the cost of keeping healthy. The U.S. does not have universal health-care, so people who cannot afford insurance cannot go to a doctor because they can't afford it. The health insurance industry needs serious reform.

Health insurance is a business in the U.S., so companies will raise prices on people who are expensive to insure and kick people off health insurance rolls if they become too expensive to keep healthy.

The health care plan passed by Congress is meant to cover all Americans with health insurance by requiring employers to pro-

vide health insurance to their employees and mandating all children have health insurance. It is supposed to allow workers to keep their employer-provided health insurance if they lose their job (or are in between jobs).

And it is especially aimed at outlawing the practice of insurance companies rejecting people because of pre-existing health conditions.

Insurance premiums would be the same for everybody regardless of health status.

Forty-six million Americans, or 18 percent of the population under 65, are currently without health insurance and cannot afford to see a doctor.

Health care needed reform. This is the closest we've ever been to reforming health care in America. However, each and every

citizen must keep a careful watch on the effect the bill has on health costs, their employers' ability to maintain personnel because of increased cost, and on the effect it has on the medical community, and its willingness to provide health care at the same level it presently exists.

We are at the beginning of a new era in health care. No one knows where this bill, or any legislative change may take us. I urge you to stay abreast of events that will occur over the next several years, and be sure that you are really receiving the reform that you were promised, and that the reform really serves you better.

Jeffrey S. Freed, M.D., P.C. specializes in general surgery/proctology. He can be reached via email at jsfmd@aol.com.

New Health Care Provisions

As of September 23, 2010, insurers will be required to:

- Keep you covered when you get sick: Simple mistakes or typos will no longer be grounds for insurance companies to cancel your insurance.
- Cover kids with pre-existing conditions.
- Allow young adults to stay on their parent's plan up to age 26.
- Remove lifetime limits.
- Phase out annual limits.

For any insurance plan that goes into effect after September 23, 2010, your insurance company must:

- Pay for preventive care like mammograms and immunizations.
- Give a better appeals process for insurance claims.
- Let you choose your own doctor.
- Provide easier access to OB-GYN services.
- Allow you to use the nearest emergency room without penalty.

White Collar will keep you updated about other rights, protections and benefits that go into effect through 2014.

Congratulations to 2010 Scholarship Winners!

OPEIU congratulates the winners of the 2010 Howard Coughlin Memorial and John Kelly Labor Studies Scholarship Funds.

Howard Coughlin Memorial Scholarship Fund

Full-Time Winners

Part-Time Winners



Ian Bick
Local Union 153
Region II



Trevor Silvis
Local Union 8
Region VI



Tiffany Michael
Local Union 2002
Region VII



Deborah Ritter
Local Union 32
Region II



Benjamin Davids
Local Union 45
Region II



Kristen Spillane
Local Union 453
Region II

John Kelly Labor Studies Scholarship Fund Winners



Autumn Davis
Local Union 30
Region V



Jada Straub
Local Union 95
Region VII



Cassandra
Beverly-Phelps
Local Union 29
Region V



Judith Cummings
Local Union 9
Region VII



Rebekka Grady
Local Union 35
Region VII



Naomi Tamrat
Local Union 537
Region V



Kimberly Lockhart
Local Union 2
Region II



Raeann Simmons
Local Union 32
Region II



Rachel Gurlin
Local Union 30
Region V



Marianne Thaila
Local Union 153
Region II



Olivia Moon
Local Union 73
Region III



Devin West
Local Union 22
Region IV



Hang To
Local Union 3
Region V

Reflections of “Summer Camp”

By **Cody D. Gibbs**, on behalf of **HNA/OPEIU Local 50 Summer Campers**

The trip to the OPEIU Summer Camp in Missouri has been both inspirational and educational for those of us fortunate enough to attend. Every detail was arranged for us to join a lot of other kids from other OPEIU unions, for what real experience we really did not know or understand at the time we landed at the St. Louis airport.

But it didn't take long before we were all being told how to become our own “campers union” and started attending the classroom sessions where we learned all about how unions function and also how to be a part of one.

Before going to the camp, most of us kids thought that unions were just another business or organization, but we learned that we were very wrong. We learned that unions require a joint effort by everyone, solidarity between all the members. As an instructor said during one of our classes, “you get hurt, I bleed.” This statement started to drastically change our views on unions and had inspired many of us to function in our campers' union to our fullest ability.

In our opinion, our union was very successful. We can't go into much detail about the efforts behind all the other committees besides our own, all I can say is that the outcome of all our hard work collectively was astonishing and very encouraging to see. As far as our committee goes, we applaud each of our fellow union campers for doing such an

outstanding job with the negotiations between the union campers and the counselors. We worked vigorously on creating the contract between all the members of our camp, but this was only one part of our union. It was all of our other members that made the contract a reality. Because of them each doing their part, our union functioned with great success.

The OPEIU Summer Camp opportunity for those of us from HNA/OPEIU Local 50 will not be forgotten and has shown us all how working in a union or being a union member

is so important for our future as workers. Not all of us want to pursue a future career as union leaders, but we all agreed that being a union member gives us more strength collectively than individually. To improve what our needs were at camp we had to stick together and that is a pretty clear message for our futures!

Cody Gibbs, Allen Manipon, Korry Luke and Torrence “Marc” Ching, children of Hawai'i Nurses' Association (HNA) members, recently attended the Romeo Corbeil/Gilles Beauguard Summer Camp.

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