



## Local 153 NYC Catholic School Teachers Overwhelmingly Ratify New Contract

**O**n May 20, 2008, 3,200 members of the Federation of Catholic Teachers (FCT) voted overwhelmingly to ratify a new four-year contract between their union and the Archdiocese of New York's Association of Catholic Schools (ACS). The FCT is an affiliate of Local 153.

The ballots were counted at the offices of the New York State Employment Relations Board (NYSERB), a state agency that helped keep the collective bargaining process moving along until the tentative deal was reached last month. More than 94 percent of FCT members who voted cast their ballots in favor of the new contract.

FCT members will receive 15 percent in wage increases over the four-year life of the contract. The agreement has additional



**The New York State Employment Relations Board Chairperson Barbara Deinhardt (second from left) and board employees count the ballots.**

economic benefits, including step increases, parity gains, increased pension multipliers, retirement bonuses and other items. The contract also delays increases in health coverage payments. Teachers will save

\$1,200 each over the contract in payments for family health insurance.

"This is a really good contract," said Mary-Ann Perry, president of the FCT.

*(Continued on page 20)*

## Kennewick General Hospital Workers in Washington State Vote Union Yes!

**O**n June 6, 2008, nearly 75 percent of the unit of 200 service and technical workers at Kennewick General Hospital voted to join Local 8. The group, calling itself KGH Workers United,

will be jointly represented by Local 8 and SEIU Healthcare 1199NW. The campaign was unique in that both unions collaborated on a joint petition and will negotiate one union contract. Through a variety of work-

place and public actions, the unions were successful in getting the employer to agree to a quick and fair mail ballot election conducted by the Public Employment Relations

*(Continued on page 7)*

### INSIDE

**ORGANIZING**  
**FOR**  
**CHANGE**

**4**

Local 32 Elects Officers

**14**

Scholarship Winners

**6**

OPEIU Opens New Office in Puerto Rico

**17**

25 Reasons Not to Vote for McCain

# Editorial



## Nomination of Senator Barack Obama Makes History!

By Michael Goodwin, International President

As you know, Senator Barack Obama is the presumptive nominee of the Democratic Party for President of the United States. His nomination will be made official at the Democratic National Convention, to be held during the week of August 25, 2008 in Denver, Colorado. The OPEIU was a strong supporter of Senator Hillary Clinton in the Democratic primaries. Those primaries are now over and Senator Clinton has conceded the race to Senator Obama.

The 2008 contest for the Democratic Party nomination was extraordinary. Millions more Americans participated than in any other Democratic primaries previously held. More than 35 million people cast ballots. The fact that a woman and an African American were the leading candidates was unfathomable just a few short years ago!

Many of our members recall, and others actually participated in, the march on Washington on August 28, 1963, where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his immortal "I Have a Dream" speech. The nomination of Barack Obama, an African American, for President of the United States, is a fulfillment of that dream. Dr. King would have been age 79 this year. If only he could be here now to witness Senator Obama accepting the Democratic Party nomination for President of the United States on August 28, 2008, the 45th anniversary of the historic march on Washington. In order to mark this occasion, Senator Obama has moved the Democratic National Convention out of the Convention Hall and into a stadium to accommodate the 75,000 people expected to attend, who want to witness his acceptance of the nomination. History will truly be made again on that night, and I am sure that the number of people viewing the event around the world will exceed hundreds of millions.

Senator Clinton fought like a champion in the Democratic primaries, and all of us should be proud of her efforts. She has proven that a woman can be commander-in-chief of this great nation and she has proven that a woman can win state primary elections. She withdrew from the race with dignity and grace and offered her full and complete support to Senator Obama. None of us will ever forget the valor, tenacity and sheer strength that Senator Clinton demonstrated in the primaries, and we all remain admirers of her great effort.



**President Goodwin meets with Senator Barack Obama at the AFL-CIO Executive Council meeting.**

Now is the time to unite and keep our eyes on the ball. We will have to work hard for Senator Obama to ensure his election so that we can achieve universal healthcare and can live in a country where no child, no man, and no woman is without health insurance.

We need to work hard to bring back fiscal responsibility and a strong middle class. We need to work hard to make this country energy independent and lift the threat of global warming from our children's future.

And we will have to work hard to bring our troops home from Iraq and provide them with the benefits they have earned by their service. We need to live in a country that is as loyal to our troops as they have been loyal to us.

These are just a few of the reasons why we need to work hard to elect Senator Obama as President of the United States.

While Senators Clinton and Obama have made tremendous progress, there are still barriers and biases out there, often unconscious. We need to build a country that respects and embraces the potential of every boy and every girl to be the best that they can be. Senators Clinton and Obama have shown that this dream is possible. We are confident that a Democratic administration in Washington, DC, led by President Obama, will work to change the laws and culture, to eliminate barriers and biases, to provide equality for all.

The OPEIU Executive Board authorized Secretary-Treasurer Nancy Wohlforth and me to cast ballots within the AFL-CIO Executive Council for the Federation's endorsement of Senator Obama. The OPEIU is in the process of setting up a meeting with the Obama campaign to discuss the details of a formal OPEIU endorsement. We look forward to that meeting.

The International Union was more active in this year's primary elections than at any time in its history. We had more than 50 staff and volunteers working on member mobilization during the various state primary campaigns. We intend to ask our Local Unions for additional staff and volunteers for the "Get Out The Vote" (GOTV) drive in the fall. We hope that your Local Union will be able to join in this historic election and provide staff and volunteers to make the changes that we all need and want!



**Secretary-Treasurer Nancy Wohlforth enjoys a happy moment with Senator Obama.**

Photo Credit: Joe Kekeris, AFL-CIO

# Letters to the Editor

## Dear President Goodwin:

We wanted to send you a brief note of thanks for the excellent referral you provided us. Calvin Johnson, the attorney at McDermott Will & Emery, has been in consistent contact with Congressman Grijalve regarding our rightful placement in the Department of Labor's O\*Net Occupational database, and there has been great progress in this matter.

We could not have done this without Mr. Johnson, through your assistance. As this project moves forward to the creation of a full, detailed listing in the DOL database with language that protects our right to practice the profession of Hypnotherapy, we know that we can count on your continued support.

Many thanks,

**The Executive Board  
Hypnotherapists' Union, Local 472**

## Dear Brother Goodwin:

I am pleased to inform you that our steward, Sue Ann Buchanan, has been selected to attend the Democratic National Convention in Denver.

Running as a delegate for Hillary Clinton in the February 5, 2008 primary election, Sue Ann won as a delegate representing the Nineteenth Congressional District.

She has been a member of OPEIU Local 13 for ten years and an employee of IBEW Local 649 in Alton, Illinois. She is a devoted advocate for working people.

If OPEIU has any events scheduled during the convention, I would appreciate if she were notified. I also feel it would be noteworthy to mention her in the OPEIU's *White Collar* publication.

**Fraternally,  
Katie Fenlon  
President  
Local 13  
Bridgeton, MO**

## Dear President Goodwin:

OPEIU recently showed support for the Alliance Interiors, Local 724 UAW strike. We received the following letter after the strike was settled. All the striking workers signed it!



**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:  
<http://www.opeiu.org>**

*"On behalf of the Alliance Interiors members and our families, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the kindness, support, encouragement, donations and sign of solidarity during our struggle to get a fair and equitable contract and to be treated with respect and dignity. Your generosity will not be forgotten."*

**John Strachan  
Local 512, Lansing, Michigan**

## Dear OPEIU:

I had been talking about retiring for around a year and finally did.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for everything you have done for drivers over the many years you have been in charge of the local and wish you well in

finally getting a new contract with the company, whenever that might be.

After 35 years, it's time to say goodbye. Thanks again for your work on behalf of cab drivers, and I expect to stay in contact with you in the future.

**Pat McClurg  
ITPE/OPEIU, Local 4873**

## Dear Editor:

I was astonished to see in the current issue of *White Collar* the claim that Hillary Clinton is the second woman ever to run for president.

The first woman to run for president was Victoria Woodhull, in 1872. Many other women have been candidates for president from a variety of minor parties, several on the ballot in general elections.

Even limiting the view to the major parties, Sen. Margaret Chase Smith of Maine was on the ballot for the Republican nomination for president in 1964 in several states, and received 22 votes at that year's Republican national convention. In 1972, both Rep. Shirley Chisholm and Rep. Patsy Mink sought the Democratic nomination. In 1988, Rep. Pat Schroeder was a candidate for the Democratic nomination. In 2000, Elizabeth Dole sought the Republican nomination. And in 2004, Sen. Carol Moseley Braun was an active candidate for the Democratic nomination. In addition, quite a number of lesser-known women have been candidates for the major party nominations, though certainly with less likelihood of success than Sen. Clinton.

While many of these women were minor figures, those I've mentioned by name were all well-known candidates, for the most part reasonably prominent members of Congress or, in the case of Elizabeth Dole, of the Cabinet.

Victoria Woodhull, the first woman to run for U.S. president, was a significant radical leader in the fight for women's rights in the 19th century, who sought to forge unity between women and freed slaves by trying to get the abolitionist leader Frederick Douglass as her running mate. There was a contingent of African-American veterans participating in the nominating convention.

**In solidarity,  
Paul Bigman  
Local 8, Seattle, Washington**

## Local 32 Elects Officers



At the Local 32 Executive Board meeting on June 2, 2008, International President Michael Goodwin swore in the newly elected officers. Pictured (left to right) are Arthur Reece, Alita Thompson, Joy Crane, Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer Allen Byron, Mary Hogue, Ed DiNapoli, President Mary Short, Vice President Bill Campbell, Recording Secretary Diane Spillane and Rich Alter.



President Goodwin with the Local 32 Executive Board and Field Staff. Pictured left to right are (front row) Kim Norris, (second row) Sharon Eastwick, Lois Cuccinello, Joy Crane, Tawana Johnson, Mary Hogue, Mary Short, Diane Spillane, Yvonne Osmun, Christine Divine, (back row) Lance Webb, Arthur Reece, Alita Thompson, Michael Goodwin, Allen Byron, Rich Altier, Bill Campbell and Ed DiNapoli.

## OPEIU Joins AFL-CIO Talks with Kuwait Labor Unions



Joining OPEIU Director of Organization and Field Services Kevin Kistler is the first AFL-CIO delegation to Kuwait to develop bilateral talks between the U.S. labor movement and Kuwait labor unions. Here they are pictured with the officers of the Kuwait Oil Workers Union in front of an oil separation facility in the Kuwait desert.

## Local 251 Reaches Agreement for ABF Freight

**D**uring the week of May 12, 2008, Local 251 negotiated a new five-year contract effective June 1, 2008 for their members at ABF Freight, Albuquerque, New Mexico. Cynthia Torres and Mark Neilson, employees of ABF Freight, and Sue Rivas, President, and Amy Cogswell, Vice President, of Local 251, negotiated with the management team that included Steve Cristy, Rusty Staab and Bob Wade.

The Local won pay raises, a cost of living allowance, a pension increase and stabilized health care costs for the next five years. Health care costs were a major issue during negotiations, but ABF Freight agreed to hold the costs down for the OPEIU members by granting rebates on health care premium co-pays.

The OPEIU membership was happy with the contract and unanimously voted to ratify the contract. Management spoke highly of its employees and strongly urged the union to let our members know how much ABF Freight values their employees, which was proven with the fair and successful contract negotiations. ABF Freight is one of the most successful truck hauling



**Pictured are Local 251 President Sue Rivas and Vice President Amy Cogswell.**

companies and the Albuquerque office has received their prestigious President's Award for Excellence in all categories, including customer service.

## Union Privilege 2008 Spring Liaison Conference

**T**he 2008 Spring Liaison Conference of Union Privilege was held in Chicago in April, and OPEIU was well represented by Washington, DC International staff member William Hinnant.

At the conference, Union Privilege President Leslie Tolf reviewed the Union Privilege highlights for 2007, including new benefits added, as well as plans for 2008. One new program, the Local Leader Benefits Project, was discussed in depth. Workshops were held to train our Union Privilege liaisons to play an integral role in helping Local and International staff and rank-and-file leaders to use Union Privilege to grow the union movement.

One of the top priorities of Union Privilege is to help union members deal with the tremendous financial crisis impacting working families through use of the many AFL-CIO programs designed to help. AFL-CIO Executive Vice President Arlene Holt Baker outlined the AFL-CIO's program.

A major highlight is Union Privilege's "Save My Home" program. As Holt Baker pointed out, more than one million homes

have been recently placed in foreclosure. Add this to the homes already in foreclosure, and we have the highest rate in U.S. history. She stated that the problem of an economy being pulled down by foreclosures will not be fixed by bailing out the bankers and leaving working family homeowners to meet their fate. She noted that while it is true that the current financial crisis has many causes in the governance and regulations of Wall Street, its real roots are in the long-term weakening of our economy through failed trade policies, closed factories and low-wage jobs.

"No matter how low interest rates go, laid off workers can't make their mortgage payments," Holt Baker said.

One of the most exciting aspects of the Liaison Conference was the participation in the Habitat for Humanity's building of a home for a deserving working family. Hinnant has participated in this program for the past three years and said, "For me, doing something tangible for a deserving family has been the most rewarding part of participating in this conference."



**William Hinnant, of the OPEIU Secretary-Treasurer's office in Washington, DC, volunteers his time to build a house for Habitat for Humanity in Chicago.**

## OPEIU Opens New Office in Puerto Rico



International President Michael Goodwin joins International Union Representatives Iram Ramirez (left of Goodwin) and Jose Montijo (right of Goodwin) and leaders of other OPEIU groups in Puerto Rico at the grand opening of the OPEIU office in San Juan. Also pictured is OPEIU Director of Organization and Field Services Kevin Kistler (front row, second from right).

## Local 100 Picnic



On Sunday, February 24, 2008, Local 100, in Miramar, Florida, held its annual picnic. More than 250 people, 100 members and their families, attended. A wonderful time was had by all! Pictured (back, L-R) Michael Cole, GSAF Secretary; Ed Darcy, Sr., OPEIU Florida Regional Director; Amos Saunders, Chaplain; Greg Blackman, GSAF 1st Vice President; Bill Sorrells, former Broward V.P. (retired); Richard Ellis, GSAF President; Michael Goodwin, OPEIU International President; (front, L-R) David Flores, OPEIU Field Representative; Ed Darcy, Jr., OPEIU International Representative.



President Goodwin is pictured with Local 100 member Anthony Way.

## In Memoriam...

The OPEIU mourns the passing of Alan Kistler, Kay Mullany and James Mahoney.

**Alan Kistler, 87**, was one of the most respected, creative and best-loved leaders in the labor movement for more than a half-century. He was also the father of OPEIU's Director of Organization and Field Services, Kevin Kistler.



**Alan Kistler**

Alan Kistler served as a Master Sergeant during World War II, then attended the University of Chicago and received his Masters Degree and graduated Cum Laude.

He then joined the labor movement as a member of the Steelworkers Union.

In 1956, Kistler joined the staff of the recently merged AFL-CIO in its Organization Department and later served as its Director of Organization and Field Services from 1973 to 1986. He was so trusted throughout the union movement that, after he retired, in 1986, he was asked to serve as an umpire, mediating jurisdictional disputes between unions. For many years

he served the movement he loved as president of the Human Resources Development Institute, where he led the AFL-CIO's job training efforts.

Kistler leaves behind a wonderful legacy: higher wages and benefits. He helped oversee the union's field representatives nationwide, worked on political action campaigns, recruiting new members and organizing support for strikers.

Kistler lived in Silver Spring, Maryland where he was a member of St. Andrew Apostle Catholic Church and was an active member of the Knights of Columbus. He also served as Mayor of Greenbelt, Maryland, and set up the Hubert Humphrey Chair at the University of Minnesota.

He joins his wife, Marie Connolly Kistler, who died in 1999, in eternal rest.

All of us who knew him were proud to have him as our friend and will miss this good, decent man. We send our condolences to his brother, Mike, and his children Kevin, Mary Anne, and Margaret, as well as his eight grandchildren.

**Kay Mullany, 86**, worked for many years in the OPEIU office in New York for former Presidents Howard Coughlin and John Kelly.

Mullany joins her husband, James J. Mullany, in eternal rest.

The International Union office is grateful to have had the opportunity to work with Mullany and recognizes her many years of hard work and dedication. We send our condolences to her children James, Patricia, Jean and Terrence, and her grandchildren.

Contributions in her memory may be made to Widows and Orphans Fund for NYC Police Department, 40 Fulton Street, New York, NY 10388. No photo of Mullany was available at the press deadline.

**James Mahoney, 79**, was Business Manager of OPEIU Local 6 for 30 years and was a recipient of the Cushing-Gavin Award for his outstanding work in labor relation's leadership.



After graduating from Malden Catholic High School in Massachusetts, Mahoney entered the U.S. Navy and served during World War II. After his discharge, he attended Boston University.

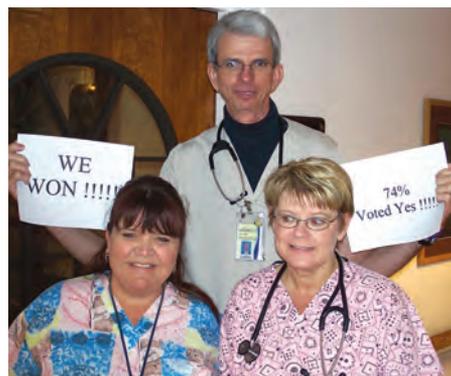
Mahoney was the beloved husband of the late Joan Mahoney and father of Stephen, Michael and Ellen, as well as the grandfather of eight. Contributions to his memory may be made to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

## Kennewick General Hospital Workers in Washington State Vote Union Yes!

(Continued from page 1)

Commission. The final vote count was 111 in favor of union representation and 39 not in favor.

"Our union effort will hopefully improve our patient care to the community because we'll be working alongside administration," said Rey Hernandez, a medical courier at the hospital. The several-month campaign to unionize included a survey gauging the top issues of hospital employees. Of those issues, improved wages and benefits ranked high. "Now we can start moving forward with our issues," Hernandez said. "I look at it as a good thing from both sides and a way to improve standards for all health care workers."



**Kennewick General Hospital Workers enjoy their first union victory. Pictured are Bill Nelson, Lisa Burnham and Pam Way, all in Respiratory Therapy.**

### WHITE COLLAR

Official Organ of  
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INTERNATIONAL UNION  
affiliated with the AFL-CIO, CLC  
<http://www.opei-u.org>

**MICHAEL GOODWIN**  
President

**NANCY WOHLFORTH**  
Secretary-Treasurer



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## OPEIU Member Runs for Congress

**L**ocal 109 member, Jim Holbert, is running as an Independent candidate for Congress to represent Kentucky's 5th Congressional District. This District is the southeastern coal-producing region of the state.

Holbert is running for Congress on a progressive/populist platform. "There is no Democrat running against the incumbent for this District, Rep. Hal Rogers (R), so at this time I am Rogers' only opponent. I strongly support the rights of working people to organize and better their lives through collective bargaining, and I'll work in Congress to reverse the government's continual attacks against the interests of American workers and the American middle class," Holbert said.

"We're always happy to hear that our members are running for elected office," said International President Michael Goodwin. "I hope that our members in Kentucky will read more about Jim and show him their support in November."

Holbert is a working person, union member and military service veteran who understands firsthand the problems America is facing today. "I'm not beholden to any special interests or political party, and I want to serve the people of the 5th District to help restore American industry and help preserve America's freedoms."

Holbert is an Emergency Medical Service helicopter pilot in London, Kentucky, and his work regularly takes him throughout the 5th District and other regions of Kentucky. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in 1975 and was certified as a secondary school teacher in science and mathematics before entering military service. He spent a total of 21 years in the Army, Army National Guard and Coast Guard and worked at several flying jobs before choosing to settle in Kentucky.

For further information about his campaign, please visit his campaign website: [www.jimholbert2008.com](http://www.jimholbert2008.com).



**Local 109 member Jim Holbert during his days as a member of the 101st Airborne.**

## Viva Hillary Clinton!



**OPEIU supporters of Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton join her at an early morning meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Senator Clinton signs a note of gratitude to OPEIU for all of its support during the Democratic primaries.**

## Happy Birthday to Charles Ponti, Sr.

**Our entire Union wishes a very happy birthday to Charles Ponti, Sr., pictured here, enjoying a piece of his birthday cake. Ponti has been a member of our Union for seven decades! He just turned 95,**



**and he stays as active as people half his age! He serves as President of the Local 153 Retirees Association and he is a true asset to our Union. Many happy returns, Charlie!**

## Lobbyist Corner

# Working Families Need Congress' Help

**Submitted by OPEIU Lobbyist Robert McGlotten of McGlotten & Jarvis**

**N**ow that the dust has begun to settle in the 2008 presidential race, it's time for Congress to address many concerns that confront the nation. Many working families are facing the greatest financial crisis of their life. The American economy is in a down spin that appears to have no safe landing for a majority of workers and the industries that employ them.

While the mortgage crisis has and will continue to give the economy heartburn, the cost of gasoline is about to bring the nation and its workers to a new low in their standard of living. Congress cannot wait for the next election to address these problems. The housing industry is at its lowest level, the airline industry is about to go belly up (many have discontinued operations), banks are trying to recover, food prices continue to rise and the auto industry is at a stand still.

While President Bush may try to veto legislation that will begin to address these concerns, this is NO EXCUSE for the Democratic leadership not to put the legislation on his desk. The majority of Americans understand the need for a correction in the course we are on today — Democrats and Republicans have to go back home and address these issues! We have to remind them that the Iraq war is not the only issue needing funding.

We can't wait until January 20, 2009 for relief!

Congress has time before the November elections to move legislation, which can begin a process that provides assistance to working families.

- Extending Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits — about 250,000 jobless workers exhaust their benefits each month.
- Legislation that would provide new oversight and allow the Federal Housing Administration to insure up to \$300 billion in new mortgages for at-risk homeowners.
- Pass a new GI bill that would allow our returning service men and women to gain education and other benefits.
- Pass a Mental Health Parity bill, which is supported by a majority of the members of Congress.
- Provide funding for job-creating infrastructure projects already in the pipeline — projects that would put people to work making needed repairs to schools, unsafe bridges and sewage treatment facilities.

The members of OPEIU have seen the changes in their standard of living; we have seen the foreclosure signs, the \$4 a gallon for gas and the physical change in our communities. Our government must enact policies now to help its citizens.

## **Take Action — Your Involvement is More Important Than Ever!**

Contact your local representatives. Every letter counts. Every phone call can make a difference. If you prefer to make written contact, OPEIU advises you to either mail or e-mail all correspondence.

If you don't know who your House representative is, the Clerk of the House maintains addresses and phone numbers of all members and committees: Clerk of the House, US Capitol, Room H154, Washington, DC 20515; phone (202) 225-7000; hours 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. (EST), Monday through Friday. The following websites also contain links to congressional directories: <http://www.house.gov/writerep> and <http://www.senate.gov>.

Please direct your questions about communication with your Senators to the specific office(s) in question, using the following format: Office of Senator (Name), United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510. You may also phone the U.S. Capitol's switchboard at (202) 224-3121. An operator will connect you directly with the House or Senate office you request.

You can also access this information at your local library, or call the International Union at 202-393-4464 for a booklet listing all of the congressional representatives.

**Your action is needed now. Do your part to help yourself and your family. Start writing and calling today!**

## OPEIU Area Educational Con

OPEIU recently held a series of Area Educational Conferences throughout the United States. Pictured here are highlights from the Conference held in Cleveland, Ohio on May 1-4, and the Southeast/Southwest Area Educational Conference in Memphis, Tennessee.



Highlights from the North Central/Erie Area Educational Conference held in Cleveland, Ohio on May 1-4.

# Conferences Spread Knowledge

The West/Northwest Area Educational Conference in San Francisco, California on April 4-6, North Central/Erie Area Educational Conference in Memphis, Tennessee on June 5-8.



The West/Northwest Area Educational Conference held in San Francisco, California on April 4-6.



The Southeast/Southwest Area Educational Conference in Memphis, Tennessee on June 5-8.

## Work and Health

### Mammography: Why The Confusion When To Start?

**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**

**B**reast cancer is the most common cancer among women (other than nonmelanoma skin cancer) and about 17 percent of invasive breast cancer (that can threaten life) occurs in women in their 40s. It is estimated by the American Cancer Society that there will be 178,480 new cases of breast cancer in women this year, and unfortunately more than 40,000 women will die from this disease.

In spite of these numbers, including the fact that more than 30,000 women in their 40s will develop breast cancer, there is no agreement among the experts as to when women should start to have mammograms to diagnose early breast cancer, which is almost completely curable. The American Cancer Society recommends that at 40 years of age, women start to have regular screening with mammograms. The American

College of Physicians, on the other hand, suggests that each women speak with her personal physician about their individual risk of developing breast cancer and the benefits and possible harms of mammography before deciding whether to have the x-ray.

At the present time, there are studies that support positions such as early mammography in every woman 40 and over and selective mammography in women under 50. More studies are actually necessary. The idea that a physician can tell you whether you need a mammography before age 50 by your history, including family history, is considered less than accurate. And, it must be remembered that while such factors as family history of breast cancer, breast density, and genetic mutations may help identify women at increased risk of developing breast

cancer, most women with diagnosed breast cancer have none of these risk factors.

So what should you do? Even the Chairman of the Committee of the American College of Physicians acknowledges that the benefit of mammograms will probably outweigh other concerns for most women in their 40s. All women should be given the facts about mammography and allowed to decide in concert with a consultation with their physician. However, it must be remembered mammography remains the very best way to discover early breast cancer, the kind that is most curable. We must never forget that fact whether a woman is 40, 50 or 90.

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

## Local 537 Awards Maria Landa-Rios Memorial Scholarships

**C**ongratulations to the recipients of the Local 537 2008 Maria Landa-Rios Memorial Scholarships.

Casey Feldmeth, the son of Suzanne Feldmeth of Air Conditioning and Refrigeration JJATC and a graduate of South Pasadena High School, who will be attending California State University Monterey Bay, received a \$1,000 scholarship.

Arthur Niavez, the son of Laura Lee Niavez of Sheet Metal Workers Local 105 and a graduate of East Bakersfield High School, who will be attending University of California, Los Angeles, also received a \$1,000 scholarship.

The Maria Landa-Rios Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in March 2002 in honor of Local 537's late President

Maria Landa-Rios, who passed away in 2001. Ms. Landa-Rios was president of Local 537 for five years before her passing. Her passion was education and the importance of attending college, thus two

annual scholarships are awarded each to a Local 537 member, spouse, or dependent child of a current member or retiree. The scholarship funds tuition, books and materials to the recipients.



**Local 537 Business Manager Jacqueline K. White-Brown, scholarship recipient Casey Feldmeth and President Sharon Clare.**



**Local 537 Business Manager Jacqueline K. White-Brown, scholarship recipient Arthur Niavez and President Sharon Clare.**



# WASHINGTON WINDOW

## The Lion

**T**he news that Senate Labor Committee Chairman Edward M. Kennedy has a fatal brain tumor prompts us to reflect that, regardless of your personal opinion of the Democrat from Massachusetts, he has arguably had a greater impact on the lives of all Americans than many presidents and almost all senators.

That's been true since his very first big issue, in 1965, when Kennedy shepherded to passage the landmark law that threw out the 40-year-old racist immigration system imposed upon the U.S. and replaced it with a more open law that lets immigrants and refugees in. Gone were the pro-Northern European quotas that previously existed. Starting then, Kennedy has made a difference in everyday life.

If there was no Ted Kennedy, would there be an Occupational Safety and Health Act? If there was no Ted Kennedy, would we be discussing universal health insurance—with a Medicare-like section to ensure everyone is covered? If there was no Ted Kennedy, would there be food stamps? Or the plant-closing warning notice law? Or even other Democrats standing against the GOP's war in Iraq?

He's led on all those.

If there was no Ted Kennedy, would the minimum wage still be stuck at \$2 an hour or so? And if there was no Ted Kennedy, would there be federal aid to schools that serve underprivileged kids—or expanded federal loans to go to college?

We're just touching the surface of the issues that the Massachusetts' senior senator has covered in his 46 years on Capitol Hill. If we tried to list them all, it would take a book—the autobiography he agreed to write before he fell ill.

It can be safely argued, as a matter of fact, that Edward M. Kennedy has had more—and more positive—impact on you, me and the country than either of his late brothers, John and Robert, combined.

That's not to say that all of his ideas have been right, or all have turned out positively. To take one big example, Kennedy trusted Bush to keep his word on funding for school districts to meet the standards of Bush's No Child Left Behind school law.

Bush's real aim was to starve public schools and their teachers and promote his Radical Right backers' private schools. To do so, Bush had to find a

way—the “standards movement” and “teach to the test”—to discredit public education.

But by and large, Kennedy's ideas have been good for workers and all of us.

It's one thing, however, to have good ideas and another to have the political smarts and deal-making prowess to enact them. That's what Kennedy has shown through the years, whether he's chaired the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, or was its ranking Democrat when the GOP ran things, or on any other issue. He's crafted legislative wins to our advantage even when hobbled by GOP control.

That effectiveness is where Kennedy will be missed. Deal-makers are rare in today's polarized politics. So are effective legislators, in the best sense of the word.

That's why, when they come along, they're called “lions.” And that's the great compliment being applied now to Ted Kennedy by people from the left and the right. The latest to say it, and we agree, is—yes—John McCain. Let us hope the lion who is Ted Kennedy continues to bestride the congressional field for as long as possible.

**It's An Election Year.  
Are You Registered To Vote?  
Register Today!**

# Congratulations to OPEIU 2008 Scholarship Winners

OPEIU is pleased to announce the winners of the 2008 Howard Coughlin and John Kelly scholarships. Congratulations to all our deserving winners!

## Howard Coughlin Scholarship Winners

### FULL-TIME WINNERS



Laura Barry  
Local Union 32  
Region II



Robert Hubbard  
Local Union 153  
Region II



Bridget O'Meara  
Local Union 153  
Region II



Sarah Caird  
Local Union 11  
Region VI



Meghan Learned  
Local Union 35  
Region VII

Ray Peng  
Local Union 100  
Region III  
No photo available



Andrew Rockwell  
Local Union 459  
Region VII



Brian Dohm  
Local Union 112  
Region II



Keith Marschner  
Local Union 32  
Region II



Rachel Wise  
Local Union 107  
Region IV



Erin Farquhar  
Local Union 11  
Region VI



Arthur Niavez  
Local Union 537  
Region V

Maria Beaumaster  
Canadian Helicopters  
Limited  
No photo available

### PART-TIME WINNERS

Derrick Chatman  
Local Union 2001  
Region III  
No photo available



James Mackay  
Local Union 537  
Region V

## John Kelly Labor Scholarship Winners

Kelley Burns  
Local Union 251  
Region IV



Linda Hutcheson  
Local Union 2001  
Region III

Colleen Eaton  
Local Union 6  
Region II  
No photo available

Maribel Martinez  
Local Union 8  
Region VI  
No photo available

## Children of Members from Local Unions 8, 35 and 153 Win \$1,000 Scholarships

**C**ongratulations to the children of members from Local Unions 8, 35 and 153 who were winners of the Union Plus Scholarship program for this upcoming academic year. OPEIU is among the more than 40 unions that have award winners, from an applicant pool of more than 4,200.

This year's OPEIU scholarship winners are:

- Sarah Strole of Spokane, Washington, whose mother Barbara Strole is a member of Local 8;

- Patrick Campbell of Jackson, Wisconsin, whose father Charles Campbell is a member of Local 35; and

- Olivia Plante of New York, New York, whose mother Doreen Plante is a member of Local 153.

Each has been awarded a \$1,000 Union Plus Scholarship. While the three share a union connection, they represent a wide array of

backgrounds, interests and goals. The union experience has marked each of them differently. Sarah, for example, is an activist who says her commitment to social change reflects the values she learned as the daughter of a union member. "Being committed to improving the life of working families are the values of the union," she says.

She has expressed those values in protest marches and campaigns for social justice. She has encouraged her university to disassociate itself from sweatshops and has stood up for the rights of university employees and contractors. Sarah also has helped lead a class called "Sweatshops at Home and Abroad," that encourages her fellow students to understand that the fight for fair wages and justice for workers is being waged internationally. When Sarah graduates college with degrees in sociology and government, it's easy to see

her as a force to be reckoned with.

Union Plus Scholarship awards are granted to students attending a two-year college, four-year college, graduate school or a recognized technical or trade school. Since 1992, Union Plus has awarded more than \$2.4 million in scholarships to union families.

Recipients are selected based on academic ability, social awareness, financial need and appreciation of labor. Applicants submitted academic information, letters of recommendation and a 500-word essay. Please visit [www.UnionPlus.org/Scholarships](http://www.UnionPlus.org/Scholarships) for information on eligibility and to receive a notification when the application is available for next year's scholarships.

"The judges awarded 108 scholarships to deserving students, and each winner is an extraordinary individual," said Union Plus President Leslie Tolf.

## Local 174 Continues to Have Contract Success

**O**ver the last 12 months, Hollywood union Local 174 continued to negotiate and ratify very difficult contracts with the major television and motion picture studios. Union contracts continue in spite of ownership changes by corporations of those studios, to protect the union worker in terms of pension, Individual Account Plans (tax deferred savings plans funded by the Employers) and health plans. This required tremendous determination on the part of Local 174 and the support of the



**Local 174 Business Representative and International Vice President Christine Page.**

membership throughout the months of contract talks.

Given the worsening situation of health and pension plans in general throughout the nation, it brings home the point that unions are pivotal to the protection of workers. "These contracts are getting more and

more difficult to secure," said Business Representative and International Vice President Christine Page. "In part, it's due to the uncontrolled costs the studios find themselves dealing with in their own health and pension plans. By comparison, the Union workers have spent decades working to get, keep and secure for their future what has now turned out to be a very viable health plan, defined benefit plan upon retirement and the added benefit of an Individual Tax Deferred Account. And, not too surprisingly, it's the first item an employer might want to change, if not eliminate altogether, when it comes time to negotiate an agreement.

"What we have to remind the employers of is that early contracts came with sacrifices from the bargaining units. The Plans were not gratis for the workers who originally secured these great health and pension plans. Furthermore, all workers continue to accommodate their current agreement to plan for the rising cost obligations from the employers to fund those plans."

In spite of the Hollywood labor unrest and turbulence during the last year, Local 174 has ratified, with overwhelming affirmative votes, contracts for the major studios, film labs, and health and pension plan offices

over the last twelve months. Two additional contracts are in their final stages of completion and expected to be presented shortly.

The members responded to the hard work of their Union officers by reaffirming a White Ballot for all incumbents in April 2008. This is only the second time in recent decades this has been the case. The officers are: Business Representative Christine Page, President Manny Ortiz, Vice President Norman Aguilar, Secretary-Treasurer Sooja Pak, Recording Secretary Marcia Alvarez, Trustee Sylvia Flig, Trustee Tony Gonzales, Trustee Gloria Lu, Sergeant at Arms Alice Gordell and Conductor Marlon Saville.

"The years ahead will bring continued challenges, but I am confident that we will meet them with the determination needed to continue to survive under the difficulties that all unions find themselves facing today," added President Ortiz.



**Local 174 President Manny Ortiz.**

## PerksCard Presentation Made At Local 153 Membership Meeting

One of the features of the recent Local 153 membership meeting was a presentation on the many uses of the PerksCard.

Members of Local 153 and all OPEIU members are entitled to a free PerksCard as a benefit of their union membership. Local 153 members who do not have a PerksCard may obtain one by calling the union office. Once you have your PerksCard, you can save hundreds and even thousands of dollars a year on a host of goods and services.

Through use of their free PerksCards, Local 153 and all members can enjoy huge in-store savings or can print their own coupons from the Internet. Members may also use their PerksCards to make online purchases at immediate discounts that are not available in any stores, as well as to obtain gift cards that can be taken to the store for big savings.

What kinds of items can members enjoy savings on through the use of the PerksCard? Actually, it's difficult to find items for which

members can't find discounts. Through the PerksCard program, members can find big savings on automotive items, beauty and wellness goods and services, clothing, office supplies and equipment and computers and electronics. There's more! There are coupons and other substantial discounts available for dining out and other big savings on entertainment, recreation, sports and travel. Need some furniture? The PerksCard has huge discounts available on a seemingly endless array

of home and living products. There are even discounts available for professional services.

As was clearly explained at the recent Local 153 membership meeting, the PerksCard can be an invaluable benefit of union membership. If you already have your PerksCard, log onto PerksCard.com now for big savings. If you don't have your PerksCard, call the union office and receive one soon so you can enjoy big discounts right away!



**PerksCard representative Michael Miller making a presentation at the May Local 153 Membership meeting.**

## Local 29 Retirees Celebrate Sister's 100th Birthday

She remembers that her starting wage working for unions was five cents an hour and that she "had a wonderful time working with the unions."

This memory was shared by a vibrant Minerva Duvall during a party celebrating her 100th birthday. Friends and former co-workers from Local 29 hosted a party on May 7 at the Woodside Healthcare Center, where Duvall resides.

Duvall, born May 9, 1908 in Knoxville, Iowa, moved to Sacramento with her husband, Glen, in 1946. She worked for the Taxi Drivers Union Local 165 in 1947 and 1948, Teamsters Local 150 from 1948-1961 and then the Carpenters Local 586 until her retirement in 1971.

Local 29 Business Representative Terry Kellor presented Duvall with a long service membership pin. At the party's close, Duvall graciously said, "I'd like to invite you all to my 101st."



**Local 29 Business Manager Terry Kellor presents Minerva Duvall with a long service certificate.**

## 25 Reasons Not to Vote for McCain!

1. Says we're better off now than eight years ago, and calls our economic problems "psychological."
2. Proposed a tax plan that would give billions to corporations and would cut key working family programs.
3. Didn't attend a Senate vote on an economic stimulus package that failed by one vote.
4. Blocked a bill to protect overtime rights.
5. Opposed extending unemployment benefits.
6. Voted to allow privatization and outsourcing of government jobs.
7. Voted to eliminate the minimum wage.
8. Voted to tax your health care benefits.
9. Voted to leave working families at the mercy of big insurance companies.
10. McCain voted for NAFTA, CAFTA and other bad trade agreements that caused the US more than 1 million manufacturing jobs.
11. Now McCain strongly supports the Colombia Fair Trade Agreement.
12. McCain has voted to outsource federal contracts overseas.
13. McCain voted to give Bush "Fast Track" authority to pass more bad trade deals.
14. Voted to block the Employee Free Choice Act.
15. Voted against bargaining rights for federal employees.
16. Supports the bill to make it harder for all workers to get a voice on the job.
17. Opposes the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act.
18. Supports replacing Social Security with privatized accounts.
19. Voted to raise the Medicare age.
20. Voted to raid Social Security funds.
21. Voted against protecting seniors from higher Medicare premiums.
22. Voted with Bush 89 percent of the time—95 percent of the time in 2007.
23. Originally opposed, but now strongly supports the Bush administration's massive tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans, and wants to make them permanent.
24. Supports President Bush's disastrous policies on children's health care and Social Security.
25. Says he "would be proud to have President Bush campaign with him and support him."



# Retirement Planning Center

If you're 18 or 60, rich or poor, there are steps you can take to plan for your retirement...starting today!



Whether your retirement is decades away or right around the corner, the more time you spend thinking through the issues you will face, and preparing for them, the better you will be able to respond to life's curve balls. You'll also be better positioned to retire as you'd envisioned, on your own terms. The **Union Plus Retirement Planning Center Web site** at [www.UnionPlusRetirement.org](http://www.UnionPlusRetirement.org) will help you figure out the answers.



## RETIREMENT GOALS

- Complete the Retirement Roadmap and Retirement Goals Worksheet.
- Where will you live?
- What do you want to do in retirement?

## MAKING IT LAST

- Where am I now?
- Use budget saving calculators
- Learn to save more money

## MONEY FOR RETIREMENT

- What will my income be after I retire?
- Which savings or income source will be the largest?
- Which savings should be used first?

## PROTECTING YOUR FAMILY

- Do you have a will?
- Which savings or income source will be the largest?
- Have you appointed trustees and guardians for your children?
- Do you have a durable power of attorney?
- Do you have a list of all your important papers and their locations?



Take the first step: Complete Your Retirement Road Map and receive your action plan by visiting:

# UnionPlusRetirement.org

## Problems at the NLRB

Submitted by Joseph Marutiak, Local 459

It takes a unique person to work for the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) these days. They used to need people who were familiar with the law, like attorneys. These days they may be better off hiring people who don't mind seeing their work destroyed, like Tibetan monks.

The National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) encourages unions and protects private sector employees' right to organize. The NLRB is supposed to enforce those rights. It is supposed to be both prosecutor and judiciary when it comes to labor law. It receives unfair labor practice charges from employees and unions and, similar to the police and prosecutors, investigates and decides whether or not there is reasonable cause to believe the law has been violated. If it has reason to believe the law has not been followed, the NLRB is supposed to issue a complaint, convene a hearing, provide the charging party with due process and a "day in court" and determine guilt or innocence of the charged party on the evidence. But this no longer happens!

Yes, the NLRB still investigates charges. It has hallways full of attorneys who go over charges, take affidavits and research cases. They build a file like it's really important. Then everything stops. When the investigation is done, the NLRB now looks for the best possible reason to defer or dismiss the charge. Either way, the charge becomes irrelevant, and the law is not enforced. It reminds one of the works of the Tibetan monks.

These monks build elaborate paintings of sand. They spend days on their knees slowly making beautiful sand mandalas. After all that work, they stand up and blow the sand away. For these monks,

the destruction of their intricate work is meant to show that our physical life is temporary and not truly real. The monk then goes to work on the next mandala.

NLRB agents have a similar approach. They spend days taking affidavits, interviewing witnesses and building a case. They drag employees to their offices, make them swear an oath and take down every word they say in precise detail then, when the investigation is completed, like the monks, they blow it all away. While the monks use wind to destroy their work, the NLRB uses the tools of deferral or dismissal. They are just as effective. They show unions and employees that their complaints are temporary and not real. The NLRB agent then begins work on the next file.

While the monks volunteer for their role in the creation and destruction of complex works, employees in the private sector have no choice. The NLRB is the only place to go to try and enforce the NLRA. Employees are like the grains of sand in this analogy. They get blown away. With the NLRB abdicating its role, the law is not enforced. Unfortunately many employers know this and act accordingly. They are like the wind in this analogy, uncaring and unrestrained.

### Local 95 Wins Representation Election

In June, Local 95 won a representation election over AFSCME among a group of nurses and social workers in central Wisconsin. These workers are part of a new long-term health care consortium being formed by Marathon, Portage and Wood Counties.

"This was a huge victory for our members and our Local, a tremendous vote of confidence in OPEIU and its leadership," said Jeff Jester, Trustee and outgoing Portage County Unit Chair. "It represents the efforts and work of many members, our International Rep Gary Nuber, our BA Josh Herbst and me."

The election victory was only a final victory after a long battle, though. When the three-county consortium began planning, a unionized workforce did not seem to be the objective. No mention was made of the unions involved (OPEIU for Portage County, AFSCME for Marathon and Wood) or the contracts in place for their members. When this hostility was sensed, the two unions worked together to assure their members' rights. For months, they pressed the planning group via rank-and-file contact at planning and county meetings and pressure from labor-friendly state legislators. In the end, they forced the group to recognize the unions and their existing contracts.

The next step was determining who would represent the workers. While Local 95's leadership was open to joint representation, AFSCME wanted an election to determine only one representative. After several information sessions and numerous phone and email contacts, Local 95 ended up winning the election by a nearly 2-to-1 margin.

"This victory means lots of hard work ahead negotiating a new contract and organizing a new unit, but it also means OPEIU will grow," said Jester. "This growth is expected to continue as the CCCW develops and we can anticipate, at full operating capacity, a new unit with somewhere around 100 or more members."

## Savings and Solidarity

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- Unlimited mobile-to-mobile calling
- Roll over your unused Anytime Minutes
- An ideal plan for every family
- AT&T—the only completely unionized wireless company

**Start today!** Just take this ad and union identification to your local AT&T store and reference **FAN # 00113662**. To find the location nearest you, visit **att.com/find-a-store**. Sign up for or renew a two-year service agreement.

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Visit [www.UnionPlus.org/ATT](http://www.UnionPlus.org/ATT)

OPEIU 06/08

## Local 153 NYC Catholic School Teachers

*(Continued from page 1)*

“We fought hard to get it and the overwhelming vote to accept it shows that our members are quite pleased with it.” Perry added that the contract was obviously a vast improvement over the “last and final” contract offer the Association of Catholic Schools had made at the bargaining table in 2007. The FCT negotiated with the ACS for more than a year and its members had been working without a contract since September 1, 2007.

OPEIU International President Michael Goodwin said that the NYSERB was instrumental in helping the parties reach a settlement. “We are very grateful to the Board and its chairperson, Barbara Deinhardt, for the assistance that was provided to both sides,” Goodwin said. “This state agency, which serves employers and unions that are not covered by the National Labor Relations Act, proved that it has a vital role in labor relations in our state. We are very grateful for the important role the board had in resolving this matter.”

The contract caps a stellar career for Perry, who is retiring as head of the FCT. Perry was recently saluted at a fete in her honor. The FCT organized new members and made huge contract gains during her tenure.

Among those praising Perry were President Goodwin, who said, “Mary-Ann gives the impression of being a kind, decent person, which she certainly is, but let me tell you that in contract negotiations she could be as tenacious as anyone. She fought hard for her members and the results surely show.”

Perry will be replaced as president by Patricia Gabriel, who has an accomplished career with the Union as an officer and as a skilled negotiator.

### ORGANIZED LABOR’S NEW DEAL

Such a New Deal has been too long overdue.  
The game has been unfair. The deck has been stacked,  
the cards have been marked,  
while the Joker has been wild.

In these critical times our country has been saddled  
with an unjustified, burdensome, and seemingly endless war,  
along with a humungous national debt in the trillions,  
and some extremists with clout have too often shown unquestioning loyalty  
to a well-meaning but shortsighted leader,  
and at the same time ignored the needs of our everyday citizens,  
and unfairly favored the super rich.

So it is time for a change.

Time for a Franklin Delano Roosevelt kind of New Deal.

Time for all politicians to show their hands,  
so that we know exactly where they stand.

Time for all parties to work together for a common and most worthy cause,  
and for both Liberals and Conservatives to only think positive.

Time for both Labor and Management to consistently progress forward  
hand-in-hand. That way we will all be better able to deal  
with the challenging problems of the day,  
such as global warming, a shrinking job market, a faulty educational system,  
unsatisfactory health coverage, inadequate national security,  
a serious immigration problem, our country’s crumbling infrastructure, etc, etc,  
even though it goes without saying that some new jobs already exist,  
or are forthcoming in response to some of our pressing needs.

At the same time Organized Labor has never been  
more important as a watchdog,  
to protect the rights and privileges of the working class,  
and in many cases restore what has been taken away.

In the game of life we all deserve to have a place  
at the table and be dealt a fair hand,  
so that no one is discriminated against.

That is why as supporters of Organized Labor we must continue in our end-  
less struggle to make things right, for it is through  
our actions that we justify our very existence.

It is also why in regards to this New Deal, I say, “Let’s all get real,”  
and what better time than now!

John Clifton Davis, Montclair, NJ 6-4-08



AFL-CIO-CLC

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