Michael Goodwin re-elected International President

Nancy Wohlforth also elected Secretary-Treasurer

Delegates to the 23rd Triennial Convention, June 21-24, 2004 unanimously re-elected Michael Goodwin to his fourth full term as International President of the Office and Professional Employees International Union. Nancy Wohlforth was also elected to serve as Secretary-Treasurer, a position she has had since January 2003. The convention hall erupted in cheers and applause after the delegation voted in favor of the nominations of both President Goodwin and Secretary-Treasurer Wohlforth.

“I pledge to you that I will continue to work my heart out on your behalf, to continue making this union the great union that it is,” Goodwin said. He thanked his nominators Richard Lanigan, Secretary-Treasurer of Local 153, and Becky Turner, President of Local 277. “I want to thank everyone from the bottom of my heart,” Wohlforth said. “I love you all.”

Convention coverage on page 9

Local 40 settles three-year contract

Major victory includes staff increases at Mt. Clemens

On September 13, 2004, nurses at Mt. Clemens General Hospital in Michigan voted 316-21 to approve a groundbreaking three-year contract that provides for increased staffing — ending a strike.

(Continued on page 4)

Local 40 nurses at Mt. Clemens General Hospital walk the picket line.
Lloyd Smith praises APMA/OPEIU relationship

Lloyd S. Smith, DPM, the president of the American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA) told OPEIU delegates about their enduring relationship between the APMA and OPEIU and pledged to make every member of APMA a member of the Guild. The APMA was established in 1912 and is the premiere professional organization representing the nation's Doctors of Podiatric Medicine, representing more than 79 percent of the podiatrists around the country. Each year, the APMA undertakes five major initiatives to educate the public on proper foot and ankle care.

"We have a strong voice on Capitol Hill," Dr. Smith said. "We are working to provide equal pay for equal work, it's one of our major goals," Dr. Smith said. We need your help on that." He discussed the opportunities that arise while working with organized labor. Not only are they able to educate their union sisters and brothers, but these medical practitioners have a stronger legislative advocacy and are able to fight against insurance company discrimination on issues such as patient choice, access, full coverage and equal pay for equal work—something that cannot always be done without the help of organized labor.

We can take back the agenda, says Maude Barlow

Maude Barlow, chairperson of the Council of Canadians, brought greetings from Canada and spoke of the critical political situation in North America. "This is a precious moment in our history because their model is failing—the gap between the rich and poor is failing—we have a third world here in the first world because of the policies these people have brought in. "This system is failing environmentally and economically," Barlow continued. She indicted the Bush administration for its goal of global privatization. "This model is not working," Barlow said. "Economic globalization is on its knees—there is a vacuum, and we need to step in with alternatives that ensure that working people everywhere have fundamental rights. If we do, maybe this is the moment we can take back the agenda. We must be there.

Now is the time, McGlotten urges

Robert McGlotten, OPEIU lobbyist with McGlotten & Jarvis, painted a sobering picture of the legislative outlook in Washington. "Unfortunately, the legislative report I'm bringing you is not a very good one," McGlotten said. "We've had an increase in minimum wage, we do not have a patient bill of rights, we're still fighting the battle for overtime pay, unemployment compensation, pension reform, diabetes prevention, mental health parity, and the important piece of legislation in recent years, the Employee Free Choice Act. The legislative record is a very, very dismal one for us.

"I've been around for 40 years. I've never seen it this bad for American workers," McGlotten noted. "The only right we have that will strengthen us, and that many have died for, is the right to vote." Now is the time to do something about your politics, McGlotten stressed. "We have to make a change. We have to vote, our families have to vote. Now is the time for us to stand up, move ahead and do the job that's necessary.

Judge Mathis promises, we're coming back to take over the White House

Judge Greg Mathis, host of the television show, "Judge Mathis," gave an impassioned speech that thanked the labor movement for its support over the years, and said, "I thank God for all of you, the union members of America." He also spoke of the new position he'll be assuming in January 2005 as national president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. It's an organization founded by the late Martin Luther King Jr. as an avenue to achieve equal justice and equal rights.

"Now more than ever before this country needs the labor movement to rescue the gripes of corporate corruption that threatens this country," Mathis said. "We have a federal government that steals an element of our Treasury to give back tax dollars to its wealthy supporters. I say that this country's focus is really upside down. "We thank God for the unions, because it was the labor movement of these years that fought back and helped to elect a new pres-

We must step to the forefront, CLUW President Johnson says

Gloria Johnson, president of the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW), thanked OPEIU for its great support of the CLUW. She also recognized the work of Kathleen Kinnick, a vice president representing OPEIU on the CLUW Executive Board, as well as Theresa Kandi and Millie Hall for their dedication to the organization.

As CLUW celebrates its 30th anniversary, Johnson said, "great progress has been made, but there is still a long way to go. This is a very important year for all of us because it's an election year, and the primary goal is to change the occupancy of the White House. "Our challenge is to accept the fact that we are reemerging in many areas; accept that fact that we are the organization. Labor, that must step to the forefront and turn things around like our brothers and sisters did before us," Johnson said.

We accomplished much by working together, says Rodriguez

Arturo Rodriguez, president of the United Farm Workers of America, spoke passionately about the many organizing battles his union has undertaken, and thanked OPEIU for its continued support.

After telling delegates about a number of intense organizing battles for California farm workers, Rodriguez told delegates that there were good examples of what we can accomplish when we work together and are willing to give all we have against employers who refuse to recognize the rights that workers have in this country.

Rodriguez relayed the struggle of mushroom pickers who have been fighting for a contract for 17 years. Through UFW efforts, including vigils at the State Senate and a 16-mile march that took 10 days, these workers now have a contract that includes wage increases and health insurance for their fami-

Judge Greg Mathis

"We ask you sisters and brothers to continue to work with us. We'll keep you updated about our legislative fights and what's happening on these campaigns.

Following his speech, President Goodwin presented Rodriguez with a $25,000 contribution from OPEIU to support UFW's efforts.
It's crunch time, says Dr. Martin

A person President Goodwin calls the "matriarch of the labor movement," Dr. Annie B. Martin warned delegates to give extra attention to the convention theme, "Organize and We All Win," and to recognize the importance of this year's presidential election.

Dr. Martin, president of the New York Chapter of the NAACP, spoke of organized labor's efforts to combat the Bush administration's assault on workers' rights and encouraged all to work to elect a new president in November.

"Now until November is crunch time," Dr. Martin said. "We know that unified efforts can make a difference. We must form coalitions with groups that can help defeat President Bush." Dr. Martin encouraged all delegates to "keep the faith as you continue to work for justice," and quoted the poet Langston Hughes, saying "keep your hand on the plow; hold on, freedom will come."

Members with 40 or more years of membership recognized at convention

Members with more than forty years of service were recognized by the convention and thanked for their dedication to the labor movement. Honored were: Charles Ponti, Local 153, 67 years; Evelyn Brooks, Local 42, 56 years; Anne Stokes, Local 42, 54 years; Vivian Grubbs, Local 179, 50 years; Sedora Villa, Local 153, 42 years; and Arlon Wells, Local 179, 40 years.

Constitution Scenes

Remembering those lost

A special memorial tribute was held at the convention to remember those sisters and brothers who passed away since our last convention. (Top left photo) An emotional Melissa Beauregard, wife of the late Secretary-Treasurer Gilles Beauregard, (bottom left) Martha Moss, wife of the late International Vice President J.B. Moss, and (bottom right) Michel Dupuis, husband of the late Secretary-Treasurer Carol Dupuis address the convention. Secretary-Treasurer Nancy Wohlfirth (top right) led the tribute.
Convention Scenes

Region II Vice President Richard Lanigan nominates Michael Goodwin for International President. Lanigan also served as Co-chair of the Constitution & Laws Committee.

Region IV Vice President Becky Turner, Chair of the Constitution & Laws Committee.

Region III Vice President John Conley, President of ITPE.

OPEIU General Counsel Melvin Schwarzwald works with Executive Board on response to Canadian notice of autonomy received June 20, 2004.

Convention delegates receive ballots for vice president elections.

Local 277 delegates Ramona Alexander and Margo Peel.

ITPE members, pictured with ITPE President John Conley (front row, fourth from left) and International President Michael Goodwin.

Outstanding service honorees

International Representative Jeff Rusich is awarded the Henderson B. Douglas Memorial Award for 2003.

A Special Recognition Award is given to those who assisted in the campaign to organize over 800 Prudential Agents. Pictured left to right are (back row) International Representatives John Lynch and John Edmonds, Director of Organization and Field Services Kevin Kistler, International President Michael Goodwin, International Vice President Richard Lanigan, (front row) Prudential Agents Frank Miller and Ab Widlow, Secretary-Treasurer Nancy Wohlfirth and Prudential Agent Jay Newman.
Director of Organization & Field Services Kevin Kistler opens the convention.

Administrative Assistant to the Secretary-Treasurer Juliet Casey and Florida Regional Director Ed Darcy Sr.

Some of the Canadian delegates who attended the convention.

Legislation Committee Chair Anita Roy, Local 12, and Co-chair Dan Dyer, Local 2.

President of the South Florida Central Labor Council Fred Frost and President of the Florida State Federation of Labor Cindy Hall welcome delegates to their state.

Senior Vice President Kathleen Kinnick, who served as Rules Committee Chair. Walter Allen, Local 30, served as Co-chair.

Election Committee Chair Lynn White, Local 471, and Co-chair Capt. Stephen Ragin, Local 108, deliver their report.

Publicity Committee Chair Julie Weir, Local 502, and Co-chair Phillip Pope, Local 2002, report to the convention.

Official Publications Committee Chair Judy Sokovits and Program Committee Chair Mary Mahoney, Local 6.

Official Publications Committee Co-chair Maureen Bo.

Program Committee Co-chair Millie Hall, Local 494, and CLUW President Gloria Johnson.

Senior Vice President Gary Kirkland and Vice President Theresa Kandt deliver the report of the Resolutions Committee.

MAGE Local 2002 and Local 512 members, pictured with International President Michael Goodwin.

Organizing Committee Chair Patricia Priloh, Local 457, reports to the convention. Cindy Schu, Local 9, served as Co-chair.

Committees not pictured are:

- Sergeant-at-Arms Committee Chair: Greg Blackman, Local 100
  Co-chair: Margo Peel, Local 277
- Tellers Committee Chair: Steven Tully, Local 32
  Co-chair: Judith White, Local 471
Stem Cell Research: An Ethical Problem, a Personal Decision

Submitted by Jeffrey S. Freed
OPEIU, Local 153, Health Fund Medical Director

The controversy over stem cell research is something we hear or see almost daily in the newspaper or on television. In spite of this, little is revealed about the nature of this research, the opinions on both sides of the controversy, and the implications to us, the public. This article will attempt to bring some light to the topic so you can make your own decision and have your voice heard.

Stem cells are those very immature cells that exist in developing embryos and tissues as they grow in a woman during pregnancy. They have the ability to change into cells that will become specialized organs like the heart, the blood cells and the lungs, for example. Presently, stem research has the goal of removing these cells from an embryo, which is a fertilized egg that has divided into a ball of cells, 2, 4, 8, 16, etc., before organs or features of a baby have begun to develop. A scientist would then stimulate the stem cells to be capable of activities like producing insulin for treatment of people with diabetes, or becoming nerve cells that could be used to treat people with paralysis caused by injury to their spinal cord. These are only two possibilities in a field that has the potential for the cure of diseases as varied as Alzheimer's disease in the elderly or cystic fibrosis in the young. There is a price to pay for these possibilities, however. Going forward with this research that might develop treatments for these medical problems has also generated ethical issues. The major one we face is whether we are killing human life when we take stem cells from embryos that are destroyed in the process. This is the issue that plagues us and has stoked scientists' ability to do this research.

The argument is clear. If these embryos represent human life, taking the stem cells would be killing that life when removing the cells. If they are not “alive,” however, we are doing a service to humanity by seeking cures for diseases that devastate people of all ages. The advocates on both sides of the issue are passionate about their stand. There is no clear answer to the problem. Both sides make very logical arguments that I will not detail here. It is important that you do understand, however, that there is an argument for both sides—a human, moral argument for harvesting stem cells and doing the potentially life-saving research, and an argument for not destroying what could be considered “life.”

It is extremely important that you all join the discussion and learn as much about the topic as you can. Future decisions regarding where the field of stem cell research will go will depend on who your elected representatives are. We have the opportunity to learn for are informed about stem cell research and have views that match your own. The responsibility is in your hands.

Jeffrey S. Freed, M.D., F.C.C.P, specializes in general surgery/procology. He can be reached at (212) 396-1050.

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

Washington Window

The State of Working America, 2004

The state of working America in late 2004 is not good—and the country is at a crossroads where the election this fall could determine whether it gets better or worse.

That's the conclusion we draw after reading the report of the same name, published by the Economic Policy Institute. The 420-page study, published every other year, paints a bleak picture of what happened to working families since the end of the boom at the end of 2000, and the subsequent recession and official "recovery.”

It includes unemployment up from a low of 4 percent—once thought unattainable—to 5.4 percent in August, real incomes declining by $1,500 per family since 2000, no new job creation until last fall, and huge increases in worker productivity, with 85 percent of the benefits of those gains going into corporate executives' compensation, not workers' paychecks.

Meanwhile, according to other reports, published the previous week, the number of poor jumped by 1 million the past year, the number of uninsured increased by more than that, the number of children in poverty is close to 1 in 5 and real income was stagnant in three-fourths of the country. In the remaining quarter, the South, it declined.

That is the economy the GOP regime has presided over for the last three months. And, says EPI President Larry Mishel, a top economist, the GOP's tax cuts for the rich have had something to do with the dismal record.

Mishel and his colleagues declined to quantify how much the tax cuts for the rich and other Bush policies, led to or worsened the slump. But he did make an interesting point:

"They started talking about the recession even before the inauguration" in January 2001, he said of the ruling Republicans, though the slump didn't start until their watch, in March 2001.

"And their policies have been remarkably ineffective in dealing with the persistent labor slack" that has driven unemployment up, kept it up and driven compensation — for all but the richest — down," he added.

"They started talking about tax cuts for the wealthy to create jobs and growth. But they [the tax cuts] have not been successful."

To be precise, he cited another study that reports that growth since November 2001 — the official "end" of the recession, though not the end of the jobless slump — is due primarily to low interest rates from the Federal Reserve Board and increased defense spending, including spending to fight the war on terror.

The tax cuts? "They raised gross domestic product by 0.1 percent," Mishel says.

But here's the real rub. At the economic level haggled jobs and incomes stagnated or fell, another type of tax cut could have helped a lot more.

Mishel, quoting another study, at the website economy.com, reports that tax cuts targeted to low- and moderate-income people "could have created two million jobs at half the cost" of the Bush cuts.

Two million jobs happens to be just about the number of people — 2.066 million — who joined the jobless rolls since former Texas GOP Governor George W. Bush was sworn in as the Oval Office.

And Bush tax cuts helped push revenues down sharply in three years: Individual income tax receipts were $794 billion in 2003, $210 billion lower than in 2000. Corporate tax receipts dropped from $207 billion in 2000 to $132 billion last year, or one-third, according to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO).

CBO refused to say how much of the loss was due to the Bush recession and how much to the Bush tax cuts.

But that's not the point. Here's another analysis, not CBO's and EPI's. It's ours. For half the cost of the Bush cuts, and if they're targeted to workers, not the rich, we lose few jobs, not 2 million.

Mishel and his colleagues won't say it, but we will. The Bush tax cuts not only were skewed to the rich, but they made a bad situation — the recession that started on his watch and that, as far as workers are concerned, is still going — worse.

For such an economic record, the Bush regime deserves the blame for the present sad state of working America.
Lobbyist Corner

November 2, 2004: Reclaim America!

Submitted by OPEIU Lobbyist Robert McGlotten of McGlotten & Jarvis

This November 2 will be your opportunity to vote for a president that will have a vision of good jobs with family-supporting wages and benefits, as well as the respect for the basic rights of workers that are the true test of economic security for our nation and its citizens. Government can and must play a positive role in the lives of its natural resources: “People.”

President Bush and the Republican leadership in the U.S. Congress have chosen to move in another direction. The deterioration in this nation’s economic structure is affecting the working middle class. The Bush economy is marked by fewer jobs, unemployment for longer periods, stagnant wages, falling income and declining health care. Let’s review the Bush record for the last 4 months. The Bush administration:

- Does not support the Employee Free Choice Act that would allow workers to join a union, free from employer intimidation, harassment and threats. During his presidency, Bush has taken away the right of four union fights of 170,000 workers in the U.S. Dept. Homeland Security.
- Supports a privatization plan to hand over Social Security funds to Wall Street investment firms. Bush also supports making tax cuts for the wealthy permanent, which the Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan said may require cuts in Social Security benefits.
- Wants to privatize $500 billion federal jobs. The Bush plan would compromise the advantages over federal workers in a public-private competition for jobs from the nation’s air traffic control systems and the U.S. Postal Service.
- Elimined overtime pay protections for many workers.
- Refused to extend unemployment insurance for jobless workers.
- Neglected trade deals with weaker worker protections.
- Denied airplane screeners freedom to choose a union.
- Proposed quitting Defense Department workers’ civil service protections.
- Signed a Medicare prescription drug bill that created a huge gap in coverage that could cost seniors thousands of dollars a year.
- Opposed increasing the minimum wage and has supported allowing states to opt out of the federal minimum wage law and hiked creation of a sub-minimum wage for some workers.

Had enough? We need a new leadership in the White House and U.S. Congress — a leadership that will fight for working families and all Americans. It’s up to you. Vote Kerry/Edwards!

Take Action

Many people ask — what difference can I make? Can one voice alone make the president stop his assault on working families, or make Congress protect our rights? It’s true that one voice alone is easy to dismiss. But the sound of our voices strongly united cannot be silenced. We must take action together to defeat these measures. Here’s how you can take action today:

Contact your local representatives. Every letter counts. Every phone call can make a difference. If you prefer, 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, U.S. Capitol, Room H154, Washington, DC 20515; phone (202) 225-7000; hours 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Please direct your questions about communication with your Senators to the specific office 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.

If you are not sure who your representative is, the following websites contain links to congressional directories: http://www.house.gov/whip.htm and http://www.senate.gov/learning/learn_faq.html. You can also access this information at your local library, or call the International Union at 212-673-3210 for a booklet listing of congressional representatives.

Your action is needed. Do your part to help your union and your family.

Bush administration is trying to take away overtime pay!

Each year our country celebrates Labor Day as a day of recognizing the value of accomplishments of organized labor. Among those accomplishments are the eight-hour workday, paid vacations, pensions, health insurance, OSHA regulations, Social Security and Medicare — all items that were won for American workers through campaigns orchestrated by organized labor.

Another accomplishment won for all U.S. workers by labor unions is the 40-hour work week. But it is an accomplishment that the Bush administration is trying to take away with the sweep of a pen.

Since 1938 overtime pay for work in excess of 40 hours a week has been a standard of the U.S. workplace. Not anymore. As the news has been filled with talk about the Bush administration’s new overtime rules, the U.S. Congress joined the battle by passing a law to effectively stop his efforts.

This means that millions of U.S. workers will no longer have the protection of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). It’s not right to be paid time-and-a-half for work above 40 hours a week. Not only is this misguided plan an insult to America’s workforce, it also spells trouble for the nation’s unemployment.

The new rules will not affect union members, whose rights to overtime pay are spelled out in a contract. Nevertheless, the new rules will have an impact on the U.S. workplace as a whole. They will surely encourage some employers to make changes in overtime pay in future contract negotiations. It will also lead to other schemes such as “flex-time” or “comp-time” that will also make employees work harder for less money.

The new overtime rules mandated by the U.S. Department of Labor are a terrible precedent to establish. Equality troublesome is the fact that they were put into effect not through legislation but through an Executive Order.

The Bush administration says it ordered the new regulations to simplify matters. But the new regulations are a huge step backward for many workers.

The Economic Policy Institute has issued a report that says millions of workers who are entitled to overtime will lose their right to overtime pay under the new rules. Naturally, the Bush administration disputes these numbers and even says that the new rules will bring overtime pay to many workers for the first time. It also says that the new rules will “create” overtime pay as a result of the new rules are kitchen workers, nurses, administrative staff employees, low-level salaried supervisors, who is a broad category that can cover many people in the fields of executive, administrative, professional, and kindred occupations who, under the new rules, could now be considered “professional employees” even if their pay is relatively low.

There are many other accomplishments that will be affected by the new rules. As an example, almost anyone earning more than $100,000 a year will no longer be protected by overtime laws, unless, of course, they are protected by a union contract. While the vast majority of working Americans earn less than $100,000 a year they still have to be content that the $100,000 salary figure isn’t used as a starting point for further changes that may cover additional jobs with lower wages.

As mentioned, the rules were put into effect the last week in August. But the House of Representatives and the Senate has passed separate bills that overturn the new rules. If the two Houses of Congress combine the separate bills in conference, the resulting measure still faces a veto by President Bush. All Democrats in both Houses of Congress voted to overturn the rules. But in a clear case that shows that political activism pays off, senators continued high-profile efforts to break the veto and vote with the Democrats on this issue. Twenty-two Republican House members and five Republican Senators voted to overturn the rules. And one of the most outspoken opponents of the new overtime rules is Arlen Specter, the Republican Senator from Pennsylvania.

In spite of the bipartisan effort to overturn the new rules, it is still an uphill battle because of President Bush’s determination to please corporate supporters. Even if Congress defeats the President on this matter, he is almost certain to veto it if he is re-elected.

In reviewing the impact of the new overtime rules, we also think it is important to explain that they will even have an adverse impact on U.S. workers who are currently unemployed. That’s because the new rules will still be in place.

We all should remember that one of the major purposes of the FLSA was to help create jobs. The law was passed during the great depression, when unemployment rates were as high as 30 percent and the intent of the law’s overtime pay requirement was to open up jobs to the unemployed. The reasoning was simple. Given a choice between paying workers time-and-a-half for work in excess of 40 hours a week or hiring additional employees at straight time, lawmakers believed that most employers would choose to hire new workers to save money. In other words, the true incentive of overtime pay was to create more jobs. That incentive has now been removed for many employers by the new overtime rules imposed by the Bush administration.

In an economy that has been losing jobs, this does not seem to be the wisest action. The Bush administration is the first one since Herbert Hoover’s to suffer an aggregate loss of U.S. jobs during a four-year term in office. And now, with the new overtime rules imposed by the Bush administration, it seems possible the president’s solutions to the dismal record on job creation is the equivalent of trying to put out a fire with gasoline!
You may have seen T-shirts around the country with the words "Vote or Die!" displayed. I first saw the shirts at the Democratic National Convention held in Boston in July. At first, I thought it looked rather drastic to display such strong words, but after giving it some thought I realized that many citizens probably take these words literally. You see, this election is probably the most important election in a lifetime. I know that this claim has been made before but this time I think there is more than a ring of truth to it. There is so much at stake for working families. The very existence of the labor movement is threatened. In this edition of White Collar you will see a report on the Bush Administration's attempt to deny overtime to over six million workers. We also know that the administration is reviewing the legality of voluntary recognition and card-check procedures. There is no question that the philosophy of the administration is that the country would be better off without unions.

I don't agree with that nor do the majority of Americans. In fact, in every poll taken on this subject, the majority of Americans have said that they would join a union if they had the opportunity.

In this column I thought it was important for you to know where Senator John Kerry and President Bush stand on healthcare, prescription drugs, job creation, union members' rights and immigration reform. No one wants to be told how to vote and neither me nor this International Union would ever attempt to do so. Our sole purpose here is to educate members on issues so that they can make an informed decision.

Unfortunately, in past elections nearly half of the eligible voters did not vote, thereby leaving the decision to others. We suggest that every eligible voter should exercise his or her right to vote on Election Day. That's why we urge you to vote on November 2 to make sure that your voice is heard and your vote is counted. Please go to the polls and VOTE! and make sure that every eligible voter in your household does the same. It's only with your participation that the true voice of the American public will be heard.

**WHO WILL STAND UP FOR GOOD JOBS AND AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE?**

**SENATOR JOHN KERRY**

- Kerry has a common-sense plan that will reduce health care expenses for the average family by $1,000 per year: making it easier for us to negotiate fairly with big health care providers.
- Kerry supported a law to make prescription drugs more affordable for seniors under Medicare by keeping down drug costs while capping out-of-pocket expenses. (S. 812, 7/23/02)
- Kerry plans to create 10 million jobs by giving tax incentives to businesses that hire American workers. (S.311, 5/29/03)
- Kerry opposed President Bush's attempt to take away employees' freedom to form a union in the Department of Homeland Security. Kerry has also fought for the right of municipal and public safety officers to form a union. (S. 305, 2003, RC, 2/26, 9/26/02; response to an NLRB questionnaire)
- Kerry supports giving taxpaying immigrant workers the opportunity to earn legal status if they've been in the United States for at least five years, have been working, and can pass a background check. (Press release, June 24, 2003, Democratic Primary Debate, 6/4/03)

**MORE AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE**

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**LESS EXPENSIVE PRESCRIPTIONS**

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**CREATING GOOD JOBS**

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**UNION MEMBERS' RIGHTS**

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**IMMIGRATION REFORM**

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- Kerry supported a law to make prescription drugs more affordable for seniors under Medicare by keeping down drug costs while capping out-of-pocket expenses. (S. 812, 7/23/02)

**PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH**

- Bush signed a Medicare prescription drug law that provides coverage for seniors beginning in 2006 and drug discount cards this year. The plan does nothing to rein in drug prices and forbids Medicare from negotiating lower prices for seniors. (Consumer Union, 6/27/03, Report by Health Reform Program at Boston University's School of Public Health)
- President Bush is the first president in more than 50 years whose economic policies have cost America jobs -- 1.6 million jobs lost since 2001, instead of adding jobs. (WC, 5/26/03)
- Bush has asked Congress to eliminate union contracts at the Department of Defense. This would take away for 700,000 civilian employees annual pay raises, step increases, capped rights, and bargaining rights. (The Washington Post, 6/7/03)
- Bush supported a "temporary immigrants" plan giving temporary visas to illegal immigrants already working and paying taxes in the United States. Once the visas expire, immigrant workers would have to go back to their original country. They would not be able to become citizens and would not get green cards. (WH, 6/19/03)
Letters to the Editor

Dear International President Goodwin:

Why Jobs Matter

With a job, no matter how menial, comes self-respect. With a job, one can hold one's head high, and look everyone straight in the eye. With a job, no matter how taxing, comes a paycheck, no matter how small. With a job, one can go to work and feel useful until quitting time. With a job, days off and holidays are sweeter than wine. With a decent paying job, one can pay bills and keep emotions away from the door. With a job, one can hopefully be better off than before. With a job, sick days enable one to take time off to see a doctor without loss of pay. With the loss of a job, one can lose one's safety net, and may then fall free to the bottom of an ever-growing mountain of debt.

I prefer having a job any day, to never knowing the satisfaction and joy that comes with earning and deserving a full day's pay. Finally, and most importantly, when jobs and unions go hand-in-hand, it makes it harder for self-serving bosses to get the upper hand.

John Clifton Davis
Montclair, NJ

Dear International President Goodwin:

Re: White Collar, #486, Spring 2004

Why don't you tell the truth? It was the highest taxes put in by the Democrats that drove the businesses out of the U.S.A. Then the AFL-CIO and CLC wantin power, not what the workers wanted BUT POWER, that wages in the United States of America drove prices up. The worker in the U.S.A. wants to keep things cheaper—so goods and items produced can be sold in our country cheaper than they can be produced here.

Face up to the truth! I was a union member but I'll never be one again if I have to go on welfare to live.

Of course you give the Democrats money so that they'll push through your bills to gain power! Cut your salary down to that of us little fellows—then maybe I'll listen to you.

Sincerely,

Jerry Bommarito

Local 494

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 welcome. 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

Dear President Goodwin:

Thank you very much for awarding me the $5,000 scholarship. I was very surprised and excited when I found out I had received it. I believe it is a great honor to be given this money for college.

I will be attending Middle Tennessee State University. I intend to major in biology and animal science. After I complete undergraduate school, I hope to attend a school of veterinary medicine.

Thanks again for helping me to achieve my goals.

Sincerely,

Christina Crawford

Letters to the Editor

Local 494 ratifies agreement with UAW

By a count of 214 to 75 (74 percent), the membership of Local 494, Detroit, Michigan voted to ratify the tentative agreement with the UAW negotiated by, and with unanimous support of, the local’s Collective Bargaining Committee and Executive Board. The contract is effective through February 1, 2009.

"We feel we have addressed the major concerns of our active and retired members,” Local 494 President Tracy Konner said. "Through economic improvements, increased health care premium, which in effect means pay cuts. Left to right are International President Michael Goodwin, Local 153 Senior Business Representative Patricia Hoffman, FCT President Mary-Arin Perry and FCT Vice President Patricia Gabriel. Local 153 Secretary-Treasurer Richard Langlan (not shown) also attended the "Insult and Injury" protest.

Local 494 President Ron Gettelfinger and Secretary-Treasurer Elizabeth Bann and the UAW International Executive Board for their willingness to open negotiations early and their commitment to work diligently with Local 494 to provide a fair and equitable agreement.”

The Collective Bargaining Committee members were Kousar, Jerry Bowman, Karen Dunning, Jan Lafata, Karen McCarthy, Audrey McKeena-Decker and Sandy Naples.

Highlights of the contract include a $1,000 lump sum award in February 2006, a 2 percent gross wage increase in February 2007, and 3 percent in February 2008. In addition, an annual bonus will be awarded this year and next, the amount depending upon a member’s year of service. Because this contract modification was agreed to seven months prior to expiration of the current agreement, active employees will also receive a $500 ratification bonus.

Other highlights include an increase in pension rates and tuition assistance, as well as adoption of a mass transit benefit program that provides up to $100 per month, on a tax free basis, for employees using public transportation for commuting purposes and employees who pay for parking in connection with their commute.

White Collar

Local 494 ratifies agreement with UAW

Dear International President Goodwin:

I just wanted to take a moment of your time to express my deep gratitude for the wonderful opportunity you so generously provided to me by inviting me to the 23rd Triennial Convention. My attendance there was a privilege and an honor, to say the least.

Also, I wanted to say thank you on behalf of all the pilots in Local 109 for your belief in the need to organize professional helicopter pilots. While it is often mentioned that it is the support that counts, it is too often overlooked that it is really the heartfelt belief in something that comes first. While the so-called support is no doubt the mechanism to success, it is in fact your wisdom, vision and decision — your belief! — that has made our organization possible.

I attempted to say this during my brief acceptance speech, but I am afraid I might have lost in all of my nervousness.

The convention was an astounding success in my opinion; thank you so much for the experience.

Sincerely,

Troy V. Montclair
Negotiating Committee Member
Local 109
Lincoln, Nebraska

FCT protest

Local 494 ratifies agreement with UAW

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Christina Crawford

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Sincerely,

Christina Crawford
Wohlforth tells Stonewall Democrats to hold politicians accountable

By Susan Carey, President, Local 393

One of our greatest rights as Americans is the right to assemble or organize and to collectively give our vote to our needs, our right to be acknowledged and rewarded equally for our labors, as well as the right to live in dignity.

We, as unionists, know that the greatest advocate for the "average" citizens of America is the union. We also know that we continue to struggle to retain all we have achieved through collective bargaining, and legislation on every level dilutes what we have gained. Union jobs have diminished throughout the country and wages that once produced goods previously manufactured by Americans, yet we are expected to purchase those goods and keep our economy viable.

We in Michigan have seen the drastic drop in union membership and elimination of union workers in the industries indigenous to our state. With this comes the editorials that challenge the strength of unions and their influence in the job market and, of course, city, state and national elections. Let us hope that in the coming elections the strength of organized labor will reflect their predictions.

This year, OPEIU Local 393 has had to negotiate the contracts of four credit unions and the UAW office staff in the Multiple Employee Group known as MEG. While these talks are currently ongoing, OPEIU scored a major victory and all eyes were on us! Wanigas Federal Credit Union in Saginaw, Michigan notified us that they rejected our proposal to extend the contract for a year, and offered three days of bargaining—the third day being the last day the contract would expire. Simultaneously, they applied for federal mediation.

International Representative Faye Orr was assigned by President Michael Goodwin to lead our team in the negotiations. Jocelyn Phillips and Martha Clements, the Local 393 stewards at Wanigas, were our delegates to the OPEIU Convention, and there they met Faye. Both women were profoundly impressed by the immediacy with which OPEIU dealt with the Canadian boycott. They returned from the convention with a renewed strength of purpose and pride in their union, conveying to members the need to rely on local and support their union.

Our labor movement is one of the greatest rights America enjoys, yet we have people who are fearful of this right. The vote in Providence for Stonewall Democrats to hold politicians accountable is a testimony to the strength of our labor movement.

Local 393 scores again!

Wanigas employees, members of Local 393, are happy with the contract.

Wanigas Federal Credit Union Shop Steward Martha Clemens, International Representative Faye Orr, Chief Steward Jocelyn Phillips, and Local 393 President Susan Carey.

Wanigas Federal Credit Union Shop Steward Martha Clemens, International Representative Faye Orr, Chief Steward Jocelyn Phillips, and Local 393 President Susan Carey.
Family Fun Day for Local 30

"It was a huge success," declared Events Committee Chairperson and Local 30 Vice President, Cathy Young. "I have heard only great things from our members about this event in the past, and with the way this year's picnic sold out all but tickets in advance, I am sure we should keep on doing it!"

August 29 was the date. Crown Pointe was the place, and hundreds of Local 30 members and their families made it the biggest and best event ever. The Local 30 "Family Fun Day" serves up great weather for the beaches, plenty of great food, prizes, activities, and just plain fun for everyone.

"We have said all along that one of the goals of the leadership of Local 30 would be to give members more value for their dues," Local 30 President Marigene Tagg said, "and if the tremendous response to this year's 'Family Fun Day' is any indication, I think we have done it."

"This is a really good time to bring out the whole family and spend it with co-workers and friends," Hector Peralta, EVS, said. "I wouldn't miss it!"

"It's wonderful to see so many people who work so hard get the chance to come together strictly for social purposes," Executive Director Walter Allen Jr. said.

"Everyone involved has done a great job, from our Events Committee for organizing it, Picnic People for the great food and activities, our members for all the donated prizes, and to our Executive Board for supporting the idea and making it possible." Allen continued.

Local 30 members and families have a great time at the Family Fun Day.

Region V Vice President and Local 30 Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer Walter Allen Jr. welcomes everyone to the picnic.

Local 30 members do the limbo!

Local 40 settles three-year contract

(Continued from page 1)

that began August 9 and cross the hospital close to 53 million, reported Local 40 President Vickie Kasper. Local 40 rejected two proposed contracts during the five-week strike, and an agreement was finally reached after the hospital agreed to add the equivalent of 25 additional full-time nurses to the bargaining unit.

The vote was all about patient care," said Merryl Hamby, a nurse at the hospital for 15 years. "This is not about the money." The nurses took their professional responsibility seriously to advocate for their patients at the hospital, and were steadfast in their fight to protect their patients' right to safe, adequate, appropriately skilled and timely nursing care. Staffing levels were so inadequate as to be dangerous for patient safety and health, and the nurses went out on strike. "Some of our nurses are taking care of eight to nine very ill patients," said Sandra Sulflow, vice president of Local 40's Mt. Clemens General Hospital RN Unit. "The end result is that we have more patients, less nurses and less support staff, which lowers the quality of care."

The 550 nurses, members of OPUE Local 40, walked off the job over staffing ratios, as well as paid time off and employee contributions for health care benefits. Workers were without a contract since February 2004.

"The vote showed that we successfully reached a mutual agreement that resonated with the membership," Sulflow said. "We met mutually on a solution to patient care at Mt. Clemens by agreeing to a minimum guarantee of nursing staff levels in the hospital. So while we did not get patient ratios, we did get more nurses, which is basically what we needed." While the contract provides smaller raises, additional hires will bring staffing back to the pre-reduction levels of 2003.

Other contract improvements include no reduction in paid time off (PTO) for current employees; employees may "sell" up to 50 percent of their PTO balance each year; mandatory cross-training for employees with five years or more of seniority; a $2.50/hour premium for cross-trained nurses performing work outside of their "home unit;" and no more than 15 percent of the nursing positions shall require variable shifts.

Local 40 nurses remained strong during the strike, even as the hospital brought in newly hired permanent replacements. They walked the picket line with signs declaring, "Unsafe staffing puts patients at risk!" and "We walk the line so your life is not on it!" A huge banner was always on hand that said, "Mt. Clemens General Hospital says, cut staffing, cut sick time and cut benefits. Nurses know better! Increased nurse to patient ratio saves lives!"

The nurses were greatly buoyed by support from fellow labor members in different unions. "We have been so supported by all the labor organizations around," Sulflow said. "We feel that our issues, while very limited to our specific problems, also reflect the struggle of workers across the country as they try to get safe working conditions, decent wages and benefits. We have many more similarities than differences."

The nurses received the strong support from Michigan State AFL-CIO President Mark Goodwin. Mr. and Mrs. Casey now reside in Maryland with Juliet's 10-year-old son, Joseph.
Local 2 celebrates 100 years

(Left photo) Local 2 President Dan Dyer opens the program at the 100th anniversary celebration on October 2 and welcomes participants; (middle photo) Secretary-Treasurer Mike Cowan and Secretary-Treasurer Nancy Wohlforth, Goodwin and Wohlforth were guest speakers at the event, and brought well wishes from the International Executive Board and OPEIU members.

Local 2, serving Washington, D.C. and Maryland, celebrated their Centennial on October 2, 2004 with a dinner dance for members. International President Michael Goodwin and Jostyn Williams, president of the Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO were on hand and congratulated the Local on its 100 years of achievement on behalf of working men and women in the tri-state area.

“Local 2 is filled with hard-working officers and staff that work diligently to defend the rights of their members and to give voice to them on the worksite,” President Goodwin said. “And those members are some of the finest within the OPEIU. Congratulations to them on 100 years of union service—here’s to another 100 years!”

The birth of Local 2

In 1904, a charter was issued to the Stenographers, Typewriters, Bookkeepers and Assistants Local 11773 (now OPEIU Local 2). It was the year Theodore Roosevelt became president, the ice cream cone was unveiled at the St. Louis World’s Fair and when work began on the Panama Canal. The original fifteen members of Local 11773 were committed to organizing, protecting against discrimination for union activity and fighting for fair pay — many of the things that Local 2 still works for today. In 1945, the AFL granted a charter to the Office Employes International Union (OPEIU) and Local 11773 became OPEIU Local 2 (OPEIU later became OPEIU).

Local 2 has a very proud record of union activism on behalf of clerical and professional employees. In the first few years, the local has successfully negotiated innovative contracts that included domestic partner health and pension benefits, expanded parental leave for sick parents and spouses/partners, and workable telecommuting. Local 2 was in the forefront of the fight to compress the work-week to allow members time for their families, and has been actively fighting for retiree health care and the maintenance of existing health insurance benefits for its members.

With its past record of achievements, its past struggles and victories, willingness to break new ground and improve the lives for area clerical and professional workers, the members of Local 2 can look ahead to the next 100 years with great pride and enthusiasm.

Washington D.C. local members join overtime protest

Members of Local 2, Washington, D.C. joined the August 23, 2004 protest of the Bush administration’s changes to overtime regulations, which went into effect that day. AFL-CIO President John J. Sweeney was among those who addressed the gathering in front of the Labor Department in support of retaining overtime eligibility for up to 6 million workers deprived of it by the Bush rules. Hundreds of workers attended the protest, as well as Senate Labor Appropriations Subcommittee Chair Arlen Specter (R-Pa.), Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa), and CWA President Morton Bahr. The fight over overtime pay resumed September 7 when the GOP-run Congress returned from recess. For more information about this issue, see story on page 15.
The birth of the union now known as OPEIU Local 2 occurred during the same year that the ice cream cone was unveiled at the St. Louis World's Fair. It was the same year that Theodore Roosevelt became president, when work began on the Panama Canal and when Madame Darricott, Cary Grant, Ray Bolger and Ralph Bunch were born. It was also that year that Frederic Bartholdi, the sculptor of the Statue of Liberty, died—one day after this new union came into existence. Perhaps this one day in common baptized the local with a new spirit of dignity and justice, sparking its zeal to organize and fight for the interests of clerical and professional workers for 100 years.

The fifteen men who were granted a charter by the American Federation of Labor on October 3, 1904 and who became Stenographers, Typewriters, Bookkeepers and Assistants Local No. 11773 would be gratified to know that this union now represents 6,000 members; that it organizes shops furiously over the years; that it produced the first president of the international union; that it broke out of the mold of unionizing just offices of staff unions and organized thousands of workers in private industry; that one of its staff representatives would be the second union member to be appointed to the Pre-Homes Rule DC City Council; and that it would pioneer innovative contract subjects and language. All of these OPEIU Local 2 has done.

Beginnings

Local 2 in Washington, DC was the second local of the Stenographers, Typewriters, Bookkeepers and Assistants Local Unions to be granted a charter by the American Federation of Labor (AFL), the first being the local union in Indianapolis, Indiana. But its number was 11773 and it was a "federal local union," similar to locals directly affiliated with the AFL when no national union existed, and able to organize a variety of workers.

It is unclear which was its first organizing victory and contract, the AFL or the International Association of Machinists (IAM). Correspondence exists between AFL President Samuel Gompers and Secretary-Treasurer Frank Morrison with the first officers of Local 11773, John Sherrier, President and Frank Hartwell, Secretary, regarding negotiations, and reference is made to an IAM contract. But no document has been found identifying when the first IAM contract was signed.

By 1909, the IAM contract addressed minimum salaries—stenographers with three years or more experience earned $15 per week, bookkeepers $18 per week, typewriters $12 and office clerks $11. The workweek was 42 hours. Signing this contract was the union's M. E. Joynt, Arthur Hunt and J. G. Bridalham.

By 1910, Local 11773 had two female officers—Mrs. Marion Webster, President, and Miss Dugmar Nielsen, Secretary. In re-negotiating the contract with the AFL, which appears to have occurred in large part via letter, President Samuel Gompers indicated his disarray with a union proposal that management must submit in writing the reasons why employees are discharged. In a letter to the union dated March 1, 1910, he asks "Is it possible that such a proposition was seriously made?...It would seem that competency and faithfulness of service should be determined by the employer...surely you would not seriously ask the AFL to give in writing the information to the union as to the cause for which any employee may be discharged."

The union also wanted protections against discrimination for union activity, a proposal that management believed was unnecessary.

At this time the AFL was located in what is now the headquarters of the United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters at 901 Massachusetts Avenue NW. Local 11773 was then located at 4321 8th Street NW. Across the country, in addition to the Indianapolis and Washington local unions, 50 other charters had been granted for clerical worker unions by the AFL. But during the '20s and early '30s, most failed to survive. By 1932, fewer than two dozen existed. But Local 11773 persisted and grew.

The Drive for an International Union

The election of Franklin Roosevelt in 1932, the passage of the Wagner Act in 1935 granting workers the right to organize, and the lingering effects of the Great Depression spurred massive organizing across all industry sectors. Clerical worker unions grew and began to see a need for a national coordinating body to share power, ideas and resources.

In 1936, a resolution was presented at the AFL Executive Council meeting by Molly Levitas, a Chicago activist, supporting granting a charter to a new national union of clerical workers. Although not passed at this time, the struggle for national recognition brought several Local 11773 leaders to the forefront in the fight for clerical worker rights.

Paul Hutchings became president of Local 11773 in 1938, running the local out of his apartment while he worked full-time at the IAM. The local at this time was already breaking new ground by organizing workers in private industry and the membership increased to 400 (sales were $0.75 per month). By 1943, the membership had climbed to 800.

W. Robert Proby also became active at this time. A bookkeeper at the AFL, he was allowed to work part-time as a business agent for the local, which bolstered his ability to organize locally for new members and agitate nationally for a national clerical union.

At the 1941 AFL Convention, another attempt was made to pass the national clerical union resolution. A. Philip Randolph, the president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, gave Hutchings, Proby and others encouragement in the fight, illustrating the struggles of African-American workers for recognition and inclusion with those of clerical workers. The resolution finally passed and the AFL set up the International Council of Office Employee Unions, a sort of "trial run" organization to see if the idea of a national union of clerical workers would work.

The existing local unions then met in Chicago, and Paul Hutchings, President of Local 11773 was elected Secretary-Treasurer. Although on their way, the AFL was still reluctant to admit them as a new international union due to many locals with few members and uncertainty about the new group's financial viability.

In 1943, the International Council opened its first office at 827 14th Street NW in Washington, DC. Hutchings took a leave of absence from his job at the IAM and became the full-time paid Secretary-Treasurer of the Council, allowing for more coordination, organizing, and political participation by its member locals.

Finally in 1945, the AFL agreed to grant a charter to the Office Employees International Union (OUEU) was born. The founding convention was held in Cincinnati with 90 delegates from 54 locals representing 22,000 members nationwide. Local 11773 became OUEIU Local 2, and its president, Paul Hutchings, was elected the first president of the new international union. By 1946, 161 local OUEIU unions had been chartered.

World War II and the Century's Second Half

In 1944, OUEIU Local 2 organized one of its major shops, Washington Gas Light. At some point in the late 1940s, Robert Greenwood became Local 2 president and John Cahill, who later became president of the local, was serving as a business agent.

Heavy organizing brought major shops into the Local 2 fold throughout the late '40s and into the '50s and '60s including the Wonder Bakery, two funeral homes, several international unions, health and welfare funds and the CIO and AFL Federal Credit Unions. In 1960, the First Master Agreement was signed, setting basic wage rates, benefits and working conditions for all the shops at national and international unions that were signatories.

In 1953, members of the local attended the national union convention in Cleveland. The delegation, which included then-President Robert Greenwood, John Cahill, Howard Hazel, Esther Smith and Jean Zelle, mentioned in their report to the members that they had been addressed by Frances Perkins, the first female Secretary of Labor who was appointed by FDR. "Her talk was not only timely...but also proved to the delegation that women can play an important part in the development of our democratic way of life," they reported.

In 1965, OUEIU changed its name to the Office and Professional Employees International Union, and thus Local 2 acquired the name it proudly wears today. Also during this year Local 301 in Baltimore was merged into Local 2, widening its geographic jurisdiction.

Organizing continued into the 1970s and 1980s, adding the Washington Metro Area Transit Authority, the Georgetown Dental Clinic, American District Telegraph Company of West Virginia (ADT), Group Health Association (now Kaiser Permanente) and the National Bank of Washington to its stable of unionized workforces. Organizing wins in the 21st century have included additional bargaining units at Kaiser Permanente, at ADT and at Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG).

On the Picket Line

While recognizing the constraints of conducting job actions against other unions who were Local 2 members' employers, the local never hesitated to take whatever steps were necessary to win justice for the workers. In 1963, Local 2 members struck the Wood, Wire and Metal Lathers International Union (now the United Brotherhood of Carpenters), causing The Washington Post to headline "Unionists Picketed by Unionists" (3/8/63). The Asbestos Workers International Association was struck for a first contract in 1969.

Ten years later, members were on the picket line at the American Postal Workers Union Health Plan, as they fought for maintenance of their contract and an increase in the pension plan contributions. This particular battle caused The Washington Post's Mike Casey, in his Federal Diary of November 30, 1979 to write: "Two of the Town's Biggest Unions Are Eyeball to Eyeball...other AFL-CIO unions in town are watching the fight with interest because union picket lines thrown up around union offices pose all sorts of philosophical questions."

Job actions weren't limited to strikes, however, as "work to rule," lunchtime picketing, creative picketing, innovative member buttons and clothing at work and other strategies were devised to win the day for the members of the local.

Local 2 in the Community

Organizing, bargaining and political action were not the local's only strong points. From the beginning, Local 2 had been active in the labor council's United Labor Agency, now the Community Services Agency, sponsoring Union Counselor Training, serving on their boards, and providing volunteer for community events, strike support of other locals and fundraising. In 1960 the local spearheaded clothing drives for the United Farm Workers. In the "70s, Local 2 hired buses and went around to the shops rounding up members to support the strikes for the GE Steelworkers and the IP Stevens boycott at Wooldies and Hecht's. Local 2 has also been an active affiliate of the Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO, joining with the 175 other local unions in the area to promote the interests of all workers.
People Stories

Local 2 has produced a few of the national and local labor movement’s best activists. Phil Daugherty, who served as Business Agent from 1962-68, was appointed by the President of the United States to the Pre-Home Rule DC City Council. John Hazeld was the local’s first African-American business-agent and was most likely its first black Secretary-Treasurer. Margaret P. Cunningham, the local’s first female Vice-President, became the COPE/ VIP Director for the Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO. Robert Harbrant became the local’s first female Secretary-Treasurer. Cunningham, the local’s first female Vice-President, became the COPE/VIP Director for the Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO. Robert Harbrant became the first Executive Director of the AFL-CIO’s Food and Allied Service Tractors Department, and retired as the Assistant to the President of the Washington, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers. He credits his advancement into these positions to his experience as a steward for Local 2 at the AFL-CIO.

And of course, there was Paul Hitchings, who, as already mentioned, left his job as president of Local 2 to become the first President of the newly-chartered national union of clerical workers in 1945.

The Next 100 Years

Of/EIU Local 2 has a very proud record of union activism on behalf of clerical and professional employees. In the last few years, the local has successfully negotiated innovative contract language at some stops including domestic partner health and pension benefits, expanded parental leave for sick parents and spouses/partners, and workable telecommuting. Local 2 was in the forefront of the fight to compress the work week to allow members time for their families and for leisure, and has been actively fighting for retiree health care and the maintenance of existing health insurance benefits for its members.

With its past record of achievement, with its past struggles and victories, with its willingness to break new ground and continue the march to better lives for clerical and professional workers, the members of OPEIU Local 2 look ahead to the next 100 years with hope, pride and with great enthusiasm.

The Changing Names of Local 2

1938: Stenographers, Typewriters, Bookkeepers and Assistants
1939: Office Employees Union
1940: Office Employees Union, Local 2
1965: Office and Professional Employees International Union, Local 2
1983: Office and Professional Employees International Union, Local 2

The Various Offices of Local 2

1934: 4321 8th Street NW, Washington, DC
1945: 1110 16th Street, Washington, DC
1945: 1221 G Street NW, Washington, DC

Canadian delegates no show for convention

The International Union learned at the very last minute that Canadian delegates would not be attending the OPEIU Convention at the Westin Diplomat Hotel in Hollywood, Florida, held during the week of June 21, 2004. Instead, the Canadian delegates went to the nearby Sheraton Bal Harbour hotel to hold their own meeting and declare independence from the International Union. The Canadian National Committee (CNC) delivered notice to the OPEIU Executive Board on Sunday, June 20 of its independence.

The International Union has filed a lawsuit in Florida seeking a secret ballot election among OPEIU’s Canadian members to determine the legitimacy of the CNC action. In accordance with Article XIV of the International Union Constitution, Canadian members are entitled to express their desire for an autonomous Canadian union but such an expression must be by a secret ballot election conducted by an impartial third party. In addition, the lawsuit asks the Florida court to award damages to OPEIU for economic losses to the International Union for transportation of Canadian delegates to the Convention, hotel rooms and Convention costs, among others issues. A court date has been set for November 2004.

Several Canadian Local Unions have filed a counter suit in British Columbia seeking the IUEU to award the new independent Canadian union approximately 25 percent of the International union treasury. This claim is based on the reasoning that Canadian members constituted 25 percent of the overall OPEIU membership and, therefore, they should be entitled to 25 percent of our assets. The claim totally disregards the fact that the International Union has accumulated assets in excess of $10 million in deficits over the years that the Canadian sector has experienced since an accounting was first required by the International Union Constitution in 1977.

Despite the failure to provide notice to OPEIU in sufficient time to avoid penalties under the contract with the union, signed with the Westin Diplomat Hotel in 1999 for the meeting, the withdrawal of the Canadian Labor Congress secretary-treasurer from the convention’s speaker list without notice and the adverse effect of 100 empty seats provided for Canadian delegates, the US delegates were able to preserve and continue the convention. Convention delegates saluted the delegates from Canadian Local Unions 377, 386 and 521, who demonstrated their integrity by resisting pressure to abandon the meeting.

1954: 1507 M Street NW, Room 805, Washington, DC (Print- Adams 4-11187)
1968: 1126 16th Street NW, Washington, DC
1983: 555 New Jersey Avenue NW, Washington, DC
1990: 8455 Gatesville Road, Suite 1200, Silver Spring, MD

President of the Local
1926: Joseph W. Sherry
1931: Marion Webster
1933: E. J. Tracy
1933-1934: Paul Hutchings
1941-1946: W. Robert Proebst
1947: Robert Greenwood
1954-1977: John Cahill
1987-1990: Dan Haines
1990-1993: E. J. Sheridan
1993-Today: Daniel Dyer

From an April, 1929 Washington, DC Newspaper Article, “Stenographers’ Entertainment, Card Party and Dance April 18th

The Stenographers, Typewriters, Bookkeepers and Assistants’ Association announces that its spring dance will be held in the hall of the carpenter's hall, 10th and K streets NW, from the time of 12:00 to 1:00. The dance will be held on Wednesday, June 17, 1929, at 12:00. All members are invited and will be expected to attend.

In addition to the dance, there will be a card party for those not wishing to dance, a good entertainment with several specialty numbers and very good refreshments. The Entertainment Committee is making extensive preparations in its endeavor to give everyone an evening of pleasure. Prizes will be given for special dancing numbers.

The organization, which now has a membership of 500, is taking this means of welcoming some 35 new members. These members are employed in two offices which recently moved to this city from Chicago. Many prominent labor officials have been invited to attend this affair which is expected to surpass the one given last year.”

Canadian delegates no show for convention

The International Union learned at the very last minute that Canadian delegates would not be attending the OPEIU Convention at the Westin Diplomat Hotel in Hollywood, Florida, held during the week of June 21, 2004. Instead, the Canadian delegates went to the nearby Sheraton Bal Harbour hotel to hold their own meeting and declare independence from the International Union. The Canadian National Committee (CNC) delivered notice to the OPEIU Executive Board on Sunday, June 20 of its independence.

The International Union has filed a lawsuit in Florida seeking a secret ballot election among OPEIU’s Canadian members to determine the legitimacy of the CNC action. In accordance with Article XIV of the International Union Constitution, Canadian members are entitled to express their desire for an autonomous Canadian union but such an expression must be by a secret ballot election conducted by an impartial third party. In addition, the lawsuit asks the Florida court to award damages to OPEIU for economic losses to the International Union for transport of Canadian delegates to the Convention, hotel rooms and Convention costs, among other issues. A court date has been set for November 2004.

Several Canadian Local Unions have filed a counter suit in British Columbia seeking the new independent Canadian union approximately 25 percent of the International union treasury. This claim is based on the reasoning that Canadian members constituted 25 percent of the overall OPEIU membership and, therefore, they should be entitled to 25 percent of our assets. The claim totally disregards the fact that the International Union has accumulated assets in excess of $10 million in deficits over the years that the Canadian sector has experienced since an accounting was first required by the International Union Constitution in 1977.

Despite the failure to provide notice to OPEIU in sufficient time to avoid penalties under the contract with the union, signed with the Westin Diplomat Hotel in 1999 for the meeting, the withdrawal of the Canadian Labor Congress secretary-treasurer from the convention’s speaker list without notice and the adverse effect of 100 empty seats provided for Canadian delegates, the US delegates were able to preserve and continue the convention. Convention delegates saluted the delegates from Canadian Local Unions 377, 386 and 521, who demonstrated their integrity by resisting pressure to abandon the meeting.

1954: 1507 M Street NW, Room 805, Washington, DC (Print- Adams 4-11187)
1968: 1126 16th Street NW, Washington, DC
1983: 555 New Jersey Avenue NW, Washington, DC
1990: 8455 Gatesville Road, Suite 1200, Silver Spring, MD

President of the Local
1926: Joseph W. Sherry
1931: Marion Webster
1933: E. J. Tracy
1933-1934: Paul Hutchings
1941-1946: W. Robert Proebst
1947: Robert Greenwood
1954-1977: John Cahill
1987-1990: Dan Haines
1990-1993: E. J. Sheridan
1993-Today: Daniel Dyer

From an April, 1929 Washington, DC Newspaper Article, “Stenographers’ Entertainment, Card Party and Dance April 18th

The Stenographers, Typewriters, Bookkeepers and Assistants’ Association announces that its spring dance will be held in the hall of the carpenter's hall, 10th and K streets NW, from the time of 12:00 to 1:00. The dance will be held on Wednesday, June 17, 1929, at 12:00. All members are invited and will be expected to attend.

In addition to the dance, there will be a card party for those not wishing to dance, a good entertainment with several specialty numbers and very good refreshments. The Entertainment Committee is making extensive preparations in its endeavor to give everyone an evening of pleasure. Prizes will be given for special dancing numbers.

The organization, which now has a membership of 500, is taking this means of welcoming some 35 new members. These members are employed in two offices which recently moved to this city from Chicago. Many prominent labor officials have been invited to attend this affair which is expected to surpass the one given last year.”

Labor Day Anti-Bush Policies Rally 50k strong!

More than 50,000 workers crowded the streets of Manhattan for the Labor Day Anti-Bush Policies Rally on Wednesday, September 1, 2004. Pictured in front of the throng are New York Central Labor Council President Brian McLaughlin, AFL-CIO President John J. Sweeney, Council Secretary Ted Jundt and New York State Federation President Denis Hughes. Members of OPEIU Local 153, New York, N.Y. also were out in full force at the rally.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1881</td>
<td>American Federation of Labor Founded</td>
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<tr>
<td>1896</td>
<td>DC Central Labor Union Chartered (Now The Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO)</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 3, 1904</td>
<td>Charter Issued for Steriograph's, Typewriters, Bookkeepers and Assistants Local No. 11773 (Now OPEIU Local 2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1904</td>
<td>First Contract with the AFL</td>
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<tr>
<td>1909</td>
<td>First Contract with the International Association of Machinists, AFL</td>
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<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>Women win the Right To Vote</td>
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<tr>
<td>1929</td>
<td>Stock Market Crash Starts the Great Depression</td>
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<tr>
<td>1935</td>
<td>Wagner Act becomes law giving workers the right to organize; Social Security Act Becomes Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>1937</td>
<td>Local 11773 changes names to Office Employees Union Local 11773</td>
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<tr>
<td>1938</td>
<td>Fair Labor Standards Act Becomes Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>1941</td>
<td>America Enters World War II</td>
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<tr>
<td>1943</td>
<td>National Publishing Company Organized</td>
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<tr>
<td>1944</td>
<td>Organized Washington Gas Light</td>
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<tr>
<td>1945</td>
<td>World War II Ends, President Franklin Roosevelt Dies</td>
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<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>Organized International Brotherhood of Bookbinders, AFL (Now GICU)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1952</td>
<td>CIO Employees Federal Credit Union Organized</td>
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<tr>
<td>1953</td>
<td>AFL Employees Federal Credit Union Organized</td>
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<tr>
<td>1954</td>
<td>Won Election at Continental Baking Company For Clerical Workers at the Wonder Bakery; Withdraw an election petition at Chestnut Farms Dairy</td>
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<tr>
<td>1955</td>
<td>AFL and CIO Merge to form the AFL-CIO</td>
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<td>1956</td>
<td>Organized Walters Union Local 781 (Now HERE 25)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1958</td>
<td>Merger of the AFL and CIO Federal Employees Credit Unions</td>
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<tr>
<td>1959</td>
<td>Organized Operative Plumbers and Central Movers International Association; Organized the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; Obtained First Contract at the American Newspaper Guild (Now The Newspaper Guild/CWA); Organized the American Bakery and Confectionary Workers International Union (Now Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco and Grain Millers Union)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>Organized the WW Chambers Funeral Home; Organized the Southern Bakers Company; Targeted GEICO for organizing; Organized J. William Lee's Sons Company Funeral Home; Master Contract Signed with several I'tl unions; Inn't Union of Operating Engineers newly signed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>Organized the United Federation of Post Office Clerks (Now the American Postal Workers Union); Organized Operating Engineers Local 77; First Contract at the Rooters</td>
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<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>Started an organizing drive at AAA Letter Services; First Contract at the United States Book Exchange, Inc; Organized the International Union of Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers; Organized the Insurance Workers International Union (Now UFCW); organized the Flight Engineers International Association; Organized the Commercial Telegraphers Union (Now CWA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1963</td>
<td>Run an unsuccessful organizing drive at Morton's Department Store and Virginia Metal Products Inc; Organized the Industrial Union Department, AFL-CIO</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 22, 1963</td>
<td>President Kennedy Assassinated</td>
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<tr>
<td>1964</td>
<td>Organized the International Ladies Garment Workers Union (Now UNITE); Organized the American Institute for Free Labor Development (Now part of the AFL-CIO Solidarity Center)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1965</td>
<td>Organized the Intl' Association of Machinists Labor-Mangement Pension Fund; Organized the Department of Labor Credit Union; Baltimore Local 301 is merged into Local 2 OPEIU, Becomes Office and Professional Employees International Union,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1966</td>
<td>Organized the Building Services Workers Union (Now SEIU); Organized the Carpenters Pension Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>1967</td>
<td>Organized the American Federation of Teachers; Lost an election at the Baltimore Biological Laboratory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 4, 1968</td>
<td>Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Assassinated</td>
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<tr>
<td>1968</td>
<td>Organized the American Ice Company; Organized the International Printing and Graphic Communications Union (Now GICU); Organized the Remington Office Machines Division, Sperry Rand Corporation</td>
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<tr>
<td>1969</td>
<td>Organized the Confectionary Workers International Union; Organized the Martin Luther King Jr. Labor Union Chartered (Now OPEIU Local 2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>Organized the Transportation Institute</td>
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<tr>
<td>1972</td>
<td>Organized the Road Sprinkler Fitters Local 669; Organized the United Mine Workers of America</td>
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<tr>
<td>1974</td>
<td>Organized SEIU Local 82 Labor Management Medical Trust Fund; Organized the Utility Workers Union of America</td>
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<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>Organized the National Council of Senior Citizens (Now the Alliance for Retired Americans); Organized the Agricultural Federal Credit Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>1976</td>
<td>Organized American District Telegraph of West Virginia (ADT)</td>
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<td>1977</td>
<td>Organized the staff attorneys at the American Federation of Government Employees</td>
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<tr>
<td>1978</td>
<td>First Contract at the Greater Washington Central Labor Council and United Labor Agency (Now the Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO and Community Services Agency); Organized Georgetown University Community Health Plan (Now Kaiser Permanente); Organized the Int'l Brotherhood of Teamsters and Allied Trades (Now IUPAT); First contract at ATU Local 689</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>Organized the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, First contract at Kelly Press; Organized the Pension Fund of the United Association of Plumbers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>Negotiated a separate contract with the National Post Office, Mail Handlers, Messenger and Group Leaders Division of LIUNA; Organized the AFL-CIO Building and Construction Trades Department; Organized the National Baseball League Players Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>Solidarity Day—400,000 workers protest Reaganomics; Organized the National Electrical Benefit Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>Organized CWA Local 2300; Won election for the Georgetown Dental Clinic; Organized the B &amp; B Acquisition Corporation; Organized Bredhoff and Kaiser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1983</td>
<td>Organized the National Federation of Federal Employees (Now IAM); Local 2 Becomes Office and Professional Employees International Union Local 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>Organized Washington Metro Area Transit Authority</td>
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<td>1986</td>
<td>Organized the Field Employees at AFSCME</td>
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<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Organized the AFL-CIO Union Privilege Program; Organized SAEI, National Bank of Washington closes—loss of 450 members</td>
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<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>First Contract at IBWE 24; Organized the International Brotherhood of Teamsters</td>
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<td>1993</td>
<td>Recognized at Service Employees Local 82</td>
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<td>1994</td>
<td>Organized the Coalition of Labor Union Women</td>
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<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>Group Health Association, now Humana, sold to Kaiser Permanente</td>
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<td>1998</td>
<td>Organized ATPA (Sheet Metal Workers Pension Fund)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Organized Baltimore BBEW Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee; SeaLand closes—loss of 25 members</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Organized the Maryland Federation of Teachers</td>
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<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Union Labor Life Insurance Company Employees Federal Credit Union Merges with the AFL-CIO Employees Federal Credit Union; Organized Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Added new members at Kaiser Permanente; Organized two new facilities at ADT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 2, 2004</td>
<td>OPEIU Local 2 Celebrates its First 100 Years!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
23rd Triennial Convention Coverage
Organize and We All Win

U.S. Regional Vice Presidents elected

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Name</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>Richard Lanigan</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dr. John Mattiaci</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dan Dyer</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mary Mahoney</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Patrick Prillh</td>
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<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>Philip Pope</td>
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<td></td>
<td>John F. Conley</td>
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<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>Becky Turner</td>
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<td>V</td>
<td>Walter Allen Jr.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tamara Rubyn</td>
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<td>VI</td>
<td>Jody Zenk</td>
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<tr>
<td>VII</td>
<td>Anita Roy</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Julie Weir</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Aaron Sanders</td>
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Diversity Vice Presidents elected

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Theresa Kand</td>
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<tr>
<td>Green P. Lewis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jody Soklevitz</td>
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Convention speakers stress need for unity

Solidarity vital for organizing, political success

In addition to the business of the convention, the gathering was an excellent opportunity to hear from national and international leaders from both the political and labor arenas. Here are some highlights:

Senator Clinton says, let's work together

Despite a busy schedule, Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-N.Y.) found time to address the convention via satellite from Washington, D.C. and warned that America faces a critical healthcare crisis, and spoke of her plan to help curb healthcare cost increases and to tackle the fundamental flaws in our healthcare system.

She also spoke of the need to protect workers' rights to form a union, saying, "It's becoming tougher and tougher to start a union in the first place. That's why I'm proud to be a co-sponsor of the Employee Free Choice Act that would require employers to recognize card checks. The bill also allows employees to seek arbitration, and provides more options for workers. Union members can also do much to affect change, she said. "The most important thing of all you can do is work to change the leadership in Washington, from the White House to the Congress. Never has there been more at stake than in an election. No one is in a better position than you to help make it happen."

Chavez-Thompson says get out and vote

AFL-CIO Executive Vice President Linda Chavez-Thompson paid tribute to President Goodwin and Secretary-Treasurer Wollin: "These are two of the most dynamic, most effective union leaders in the country," Chavez-Thompson said. She then went on to extend her tribute by saying, "When you choose Nancy as your secretary-treasurer, you were the first union in history of our movement to choose an open lesbian as an executive officer. I know something about breaking glass ceilings, and I know that not only she made history, but you made history."

Chavez-Thompson then reiterated the importance of the 2004 presidential election and the campaign to restore workers' freedom to join unions. She also stressed the importance of pressuring Congress to pass the Employee Free Choice Act. There are 42 million workers in America who are not part of the union movement that would like to join but cannot, because when they try employers use intiminations, lies and fringes to stop them and the law does little or nothing to protect them. Chavez-Thompson expressed the importance of not only passing the legislation, but to also elect a president who will sign it. She said all union members have to get involved in the political process, to "make it your own personal mission" to help elect the right person in November and "to tell the truth about George W. Bush" to fellow union members, friends and neighbors.

Which side are you on, asks Rev. Jackson

The Reverend Jesse Jackson Sr., founder and president of the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, passionately asked delegates to consider the question, "Which side are you on?" Jackson told delegates that Jesus warned to "beware of the wolf in sheep's clothing," reminding us that opposition to organized labor is often disguised and uses many methods to undermine our activities.

Jackson said the question is especially relevant now, at unity within the labor movement is so important to future growth. "I congratulate this union for growing – you're swimming upstream," he said. "The more you grow and expand the more power you have to protect your interests. Unions must unify and get strength, not divide and weaken. And members must vote their hopes and interests over their fears.

"We have the power to make a difference," Jackson said, encouraging everyone to get involved and make their voices heard in the November elections. "It's time for a change in direction and leadership. I'm on a low-carb diet. That's C.A.R.B. — no Cheney, no Ashcroft, no Rumsfeld, no Bush!"

Reverend Jesse Jackson Sr. meets with President Goodwin at the convention.

Make it your own personal mission ... to tell the truth about George W. Bush

AFL-CIO Executive Vice President Linda Chavez-Thompson is pictured with convention escort committee.