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OPEIU laments loss of great labor leader *Secretary-Treasurer Gilles Beauregard dies at 64*

After a career spanning nearly 40 years of commitment and dedication to the Canadian and American labor movements, beloved OPEIU Secretary-Treasurer Gilles Beauregard died on January 3, 2002 of heart disease. He was 64.

"It's impossible to describe what a loss this is to OPEIU," International President Michael Goodwin said. "Gilles spent a lifetime dedicated to working people and this Union. His vast knowledge, experience, wisdom and kindness can never be replaced."

"For me personally, I've lost a dear friend and confidant," Goodwin continued. "For OPEIU, the loss of his leadership will be felt for many years to come."

At a moving ceremony held on January 8 in Repentigny, PQ, Canada, family, friends, labor leaders — including the members of the OPEIU Executive Board — and co-workers paid tribute to Beauregard. Among those who spoke were International President Michael Goodwin and Canadian Director Michel Lajeunesse (complete remarks on page 6), as well as Beauregard's brother, Jacques, sister, Marie, and son, Daniel.

Other members of the OPEIU family expressed their grief



Gilles Beauregard

in written tributes. "His leadership, dedication and strength of character will be missed," said the OPEIU Executive Board. "His example inspired us to try to work up to his standards," said Richard Lanigan, International Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer of Local 153.

A memorial mass was held in New Orleans on January 21st at the Church of Immaculate Conception.

A celebration of Beauregard's life was also held at the AFL-CIO building in Washington, D.C. on March 6. Representatives from the AFL-CIO, including AFL-CIO President John J. Sweeney, and the OPEIU — including International President Michael Goodwin, Secretary-Treasurer Carol Dupuis, and Director of Organization and Field Services Kevin Kistler — recalled their memories of working with Beauregard and spoke of friendships that lasted many years. Beauregard's beloved wife, Melissa, also spoke and expressed her family's appreciation for the outpouring of emotion shown by OPEIU members from throughout the United States and Canada.

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OPEIU Executive Board elects Carol Dupuis Secretary-Treasurer

At a meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana held January 21-24, the OPEIU Executive Board elected International Vice President Carol Dupuis to serve as the Union's International Secretary-Treasurer. The election was held following the death of Secretary-Treasurer Gilles Beauregard on January 3. Dupuis will serve until the next International Convention in 2004.

"We're very pleased that Carol has accepted this position," International President Michael Goodwin said. "As a long-time member of OPEIU, and a labor activist who has worked tirelessly for our members in Canada, Carol brings an important set of talents and experiences to the office of Secretary-Treasurer," Goodwin continued. "While it is extremely difficult to fill the shoes of someone like Gilles, we feel fortunate to have a person as qualified and dedicated as Carol to continue his work in

Washington, D.C. She will diligently represent the interest of our members in both the United States and Canada," Goodwin concluded.

Dupuis, formerly a full-time Staff Representative with the OPEIU Central Ontario Council (COC), was named International Vice President, Region X, upon the retirement of Vice President Janice Best and was elected at the 2001 Convention for another full term.

Dupuis has been a member of OPEIU since 1979 when she began working for the Union of National Defense Employees in Ottawa, Ontario. She became the Steward of her bargaining unit and went on to a leadership position in Local 225 shortly thereafter.

In 1992, Dupuis left UNDE to become a Staff Representative for the COC, where she serviced a variety of locals in central and northern Ontario. She is fluently bilingual and has represented members in both

official languages at the bargaining table, labor board and other key areas. In November 1999, Dupuis was elected Vice President for

Small Affiliates at the Ontario Federation of Labour where she represented the interests of some 50,000 members from 35 unions.



International President Michael Goodwin administers the Oath of Office to Carol Dupuis, following the OPEIU Executive Board's election of Dupuis as Secretary-Treasurer.

ORGANIZING FOR CHANGE

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OPEIU among top AFL-CIO unions in organizing

According to recently released data from the AFL-CIO, OPEIU was among the top AFL-CIO unions in organizing in 2001 and in fact, over the last five years. Excerpts of the report showed as follows:

Average AFL-CIO Membership

The average membership of the unions affiliated with the AFL-CIO in 2001 totaled 13,248,844. This represents an increase of 325,865 members for these unions, 116,791 of which was the net growth of these affiliates. Another 209,074 members were gained through the affiliation of the California School Employees and the United American Nurses.

The federation's membership was affected by the disaffiliation of the Carpenters' Union, not reflected in the totals for either this or the previous years.

One-Year Comparison

Fourteen unions grew by more than 5,000 members in 2001:

Teachers	68,542
SEIU	30,600
Fire Fighters	26,250
Laborers	17,683
Teamsters	15,444
Transport Workers	15,083
Electrical Workers (IBEW)	12,771
Office & Professional	11,061
Bricklayers	8,986
AFSCME	8,463
Hotel & Restaurant Employees	6,088
Air Line Pilots	5,615
Professional & Technical Engineers	5,222
Transportation Communications	5,100

Overall, 33 national unions had membership increases in 2001. These unions added a total of 268,288 members.

In addition, two new affiliates, the California School Employees Association and the United American Nurses, added 209,074 members. Twenty-one unions suffered losses totaling 151,497 members. Eleven unions had no change.

Current Affiliate Net Increase

Unions Growing	262,288
Unions with Loss	(151,497)
New Affiliates	209,074
Membership Change	325,865

Five-Year Growth

The following unions have grown by more than 25,000 members since 1996:

Teachers	242,392
SEIU	212,367
Food & Commercial Workers	72,570
Fire Fighters	49,000
Machinists & Aerospace Workers	38,659
Government Employees (AFGE)	32,194
Transport Communications	31,150
Office & Professional Employees	26,075
Electrical Workers (IBEW)	25,189

The current affiliates of the AFL-CIO grew by 760,904 members since 1996. Of this, 222,901 was due to new affiliations. In these five years, 33 unions had membership increases. These unions added a total of 979,916 members in this time. At the same time, 24 other unions had reductions in membership totaling 487,973 members. Seven unions had no membership change. (For these purposes, the Carpenters' membership was not included in the totals for the current or previous years.)

The federation's current affiliates grew annually by an average of 152,181 members since 1996. The average annual growth of the unions growing more than an average of 5,000 members during these these years is reflected below:

Teachers	48,478
SEIU	42,473
Food & Commercial Workers	14,514
Fire Fighters	9,800
Machinists & Aerospace Workers	7,732
Government Employees (AFGE)	6,439
Transportation Communications	6,230
Office & Professional Employees	5,215
Electrical Workers (IBEW)	5,038

Taxi organizing drive in New Orleans, LA



Representatives of the Independent Taxi Industry, Inc. (ITI) in New Orleans, La. discuss affiliation with OPEIU Local 4873 (ITPEU).



OPEIU Local 4873 (ITPEU) is also working to organize 1,400 taxi drivers in New Orleans, La. Representatives of the drivers met to discuss affiliation. Pictured from left to right are: Kevin Kistler, OPEIU Director of Organization and Field Services; Green Lewis, OPEIU International Representative; Herman Woods, a driver; George Dupree, President of the Independent Taxi Industry, Inc. (ITI); ITPEU President John Conley; and OPEIU International President Michael Goodwin.



Taxi drivers meet at general meeting in New Orleans, La. in February 26.

Local 11 holds Educational Conference

Stresses training, importance of organizing, political involvement

Under the leadership of OPEIU Local 11 Chief Executive Officer Gary Kirkland, an extremely informational Educational Conference was held on March 2-3, 2002 in Portland, Oregon. The conference provided continuing training and education for local members, stressed the importance of organizing to the survival of our Union, as well as the need for all members to become politically involved at the local and national level.

"I want to thank Gary Kirkland and the officers of Local 11 for inviting me to attend this conference," International President Michael Goodwin said to conference delegates. "The relationship between the International Union and Local 11 has always been excellent. I appreciate your friendship," Goodwin continued.

Organize, organize, organize

"The last five years have been very rewarding as we have changed the direction of the Union," Goodwin said. "We have organized in non-traditional areas in professions such as Doctors of Podiatry and Clinical Social Workers. We have also organized professionals including the engineers at The Boeing Company, helicopter pilots in the Gulf of Mexico, Catholic schoolteachers in New York and we are currently organizing taxi drivers in New Orleans, Louisiana," Goodwin continued.

"More progress has been made in the last five years than ever before," Goodwin said. "I just returned from an AFL-CIO Executive Council meeting where it was reported that OPEIU finished eighth of 66 unions in organizing in 2001. We have grown from 82,000 members in the U.S. in 1996 to 108,000 members today. If you include Canada, we have grown from over 100,000 to 145,000 members. In 1996, we were ranked 29th in size among the 66 AFL-CIO unions. Today we are ranked 22nd and moving up!" Goodwin said.

"Organizing at these levels doesn't happen without financial support," Goodwin cautioned. "That's why our Union has dedicated more than 30 percent of its resources to organizing. We recommend that every local union do likewise, including Local 11. Unions that don't organize won't be around very long. I can name 10 or 15 unions that are no longer viable or strong because they didn't organize and replace the jobs that went out of the country or were automated out of existence," Goodwin said.

"So my message to you today is — you must organize if you want to remain viable and strong," Goodwin said.

Local 11 praised for contributions to VOTE

International President Goodwin also stressed the importance of being politically involved. "Working families need people in government that are supportive of their needs," Goodwin said. "Less attention needs to be given to industry and more to working families. If we don't give our attention to politicians — the politicians will turn their attention to those who do. After we're gone, who will be left to speak for you? The labor movement is the last line of defense between greed and fairness. It is the only powerful voice out there for working families," Goodwin said.

"We must not let this line of defense be broken," Goodwin continued. "Get active in politics, be involved and contribute to union political action funds." Goodwin also praised Local 11's action to raise VOTE money at the meeting, and said how OPEIU's VOTE fund raises and disburses \$400,000 per congressional cycle and that Local 11 is an important part of that effort. "Thank you for your support of VOTE, and keep up the good work!" Goodwin said.

Goodwin then told participants about two other major changes in the Union. "It wasn't long ago that we had two woman representatives on our International Union Executive Board," Goodwin said. "Based on recommendations approved by the Executive Board, we established diversity seats for women and minorities, expanded the Board to 21 seats, and provided for the regional election of Vice Presidents. These actions have led to 14 of the 21 seats on our International Union Executive Board being held by women," Goodwin said.

"We have also recently elected a fifteenth woman, Carol Dupuis, as the first woman Secretary-Treasurer of our International Union in history," Goodwin continued. "All of these

changes were made with the full support and backing of Vice President Gary Kirkland. Gary has supported every progressive issue to come before the Board — whether it was diversity, broader representation of women, regional election of Vice Presidents or support of the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW). On all of these issues, Gary has been there to support," Goodwin said.

Goodwin praises Kirkland's negotiation of contract at Boeing

"Gary also came forward to assist the Union by accepting an assignment to be the chief negotiator for the engineers at The Boeing

Company in Southern California," Goodwin said. "He went to Huntington Beach, California and negotiated a great contract — a contract that was overwhelmingly ratified by the engineers. When I looked for a chief negotiator at Boeing, I immediately thought of Gary Kirkland because of his great skill and experience. And I wasn't disappointed. He knew how to handle The Boeing Company — he knew how to handle engineers — and he knew how to get the job done!"

Goodwin went on to explain that Kirkland has been recognized by the U.S. Department of Labor as a national leader on "Win/Win" bargaining techniques. In fact, the Labor Department used the Northwest Natural Company/Local 11 tape as a government training tape across the United States. "For this, Gary, you should be proud," Goodwin said.

Kirkland named Senior Vice President

"All of Gary's contributions have been recognized when the International Union Executive Board bestowed the title of 'Senior Vice President' on him to use when representing OPEIU," Goodwin said. "Again, congratulations Gary, and thank you for your service. By the way, Gary is the most senior Vice President on the OPEIU Executive Board, celebrating his 27th year of service this year," Goodwin said.



Goodwin with conference delegates, as he wins VOTE prize. All winners donated prizes back to VOTE.



Conference participants listen intently.



Local 11 Chief Executive Officer Gary Kirkland presents the Shop Steward of the Year award to Frances E. Lee, employed at CNF.



International President Michael Goodwin greets Shop Steward Josh Lee as Local 11 Chief Executive Officer Gary Kirkland looks on.

Much accomplished at OPEIU Executive Board meeting

Secretary-Treasurer elected; Local Union charters issued



The OPEIU Executive Board at its meeting on January 21-24, 2002. Not pictured is International Vice President Richard Lanigan.



OPEIU Canadian Director Michel Lajeunesse congratulates Carol Dupuis upon her election as Secretary-Treasurer. Lajeunesse nominated Dupuis for the office, and International Vice Presidents Richard Lanigan and Anita Roy seconded the nomi-



Newly elected Secretary-Treasurer Carol Dupuis addresses the OPEIU Executive Board.



ITPEU President John Conley addresses the Executive Board.



International Vice President Richard Lanigan seconds the nomination of Carol Dupuis for Secretary-Treasurer. Also pictured are International Vice Presidents J.B. Moss, Gary Kirkland and Theresa



The OPEIU Executive Board bestows the title of Senior Vice President upon Gary Kirkland, Kathleen Kinnick and J.B. Moss. Each has more than 25 years of service on the OPEIU Executive Board. The change is to be submitted for approval to the 2004 International Union



International President Goodwin (right) and interim Secretary-Treasurer Kathleen Kinnick present John Conley, President of ITPEU, with a charter for newly formed Local 4873 in Savannah, Georgia. ITPEU affiliated with OPEIU on July 1, 2001. ITEPU has 10,000 members, a staff of 28 employees and maintains its headquarters in Savannah, with offices around the country.



International President Goodwin (right) and interim Secretary-Treasurer Kathleen Kinnick present International Vice President Phillip Pope with a charter for the newly formed Local 2001. Local 2001, of which Pope serves as President, is a result of a merger of Local 119, Chattanooga, Tennessee, and Local 268, Knoxville, Tennessee. The merger was effective as of July 1, 2001.

FCT shows gains in new contract

In the new year of 2002, there are 3,000 happier Catholic schoolteachers in the New York Archdiocese. Members of the Federation of Catholic Teachers (FCT), an affiliate of OPEIU, Local 153, won a new three-year contract of wage increases. The contract also has a provision that will reward teachers who instruct a sixth class and represents a great victory over the Archdiocese's demands for a co-pay of almost \$2,000 a year for health coverage. The teachers will receive an 11 percent wage increase over three years, and will have a new medical plan that will not cost any additional co-pay.

It was not an easy negotiation. The FCT was forced to take job actions to move the Archdiocese into making a reasonable offer. The contract was reached as the teachers were considering scheduling a strike vote. Another Catholic teachers union, approximately 300 high school teachers, went on

strike against the Archdiocese weeks before the FCT reached its contract agreement. The smaller union was still on strike when the contract between the FCT and the Archdiocese was reached. That union's members eventually returned to work and continue to negotiate.

Although the FCT members did not go on strike, their determination to win a fair deal was obvious. They took "work-to-rule" action, canceling all other school activities except those that are required of them by contract and they reached out to the parents of their students — who showed great support.

Many of the schools participated in sick-outs. On various assigned days, teachers were asked to call in sick. This caused enough chaos to get the Archdiocese's attention, not knowing which school would be next.

There's a reason for the strong support from parents. The FCT members have repeatedly obtained great results in education. Repeated studies have proved Catholic schools consistently outperform public schools in test results and in the percentage of students who go on to college.

The last year has been a busy one for the FCT. Before contract negotiations began the union engaged in a monumental effort to stop the head of the Archdiocese, Cardinal Egan, from closing six Catholic schools. The union's effort included rallies and demonstrations outside the schools and received much coverage in the media. The FCT's determination paid off when three of the schools were saved.

Similar efforts took place during contract

negotiations. Besides reaching out to parents, the FCT staged a strong media outreach campaign. On November 19, for example, when Cardinal Egan was dedicating a new wing at a high school on Staten Island, the FCT had a truck waiting for him featuring a huge billboard saying that the Archdiocese's proposed pay cuts were not acceptable. The FCT also made a television commercial saluting Catholic school graduates who died heroically on September 11.

The media paid close attention to the negotiations, as did parents and students. A tentative contract was reached on December 7 and the ratification vote was carried out by mail ballot. The ballots were counted on January 25. Considering the original demands of the Archdiocese, it is not surprising that the contract was ratified overwhelmingly by the teachers.

"Our members work hard and work effectively, and they deserve a fair contract," FCT President Michele MacDonald said repeat-

edly during the negotiations. "We cannot let the Archdiocese balance its budget on the backs of Catholic schoolteachers. We need a contract that provides our members with fair compensation."

The new contract does exactly that. It required determination and hard work by the teachers and the FCT to obtain it. But in the end, the contract they obtained clearly accomplishes their goals and proves that union membership pays.

Congratulations to everyone involved. The bargaining committee consisted of FCT President, Michele L. MacDonald, Secretary, Edwina M. Dunne, Treasurer, Patricia Gabriel, Council Members, Mary-Ann Perry, Erike Miklus, Deans O'Donohue, Brian Maher, Eileen Sweeney, John McEvelly, Mike McComiskey. Also assisting in the bargaining was FCT Attorney William Russo of Russo & Burke and Local 153 Business Manager Michael Goodwin and Secretary-Treasurer Richard Lanigan.

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Election set at Prudential

Local 153, New York, N.Y. is spearheading an election campaign involving approximately 2,000 Prudential representatives throughout the United States. The workers were formally represented by the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW) who helped OPEIU launch the campaign.

Ballots will be mailed on April 5 to Prudential representatives in 37 states, reports Local 153 Secretary-Treasurer Richard Lanigan. Ballots must be returned by April 26. The election results will be reported in the next edition of White Collar.

International Union Director of Organization and Field Services Kevin Kistler has been working closely with Lanigan in coordinating the campaign.

Saluting Our Heroes



In the middle of contract negotiations with the Archdiocese of New York, the FCT filmed a television commercial saluting the many Catholic school graduates who died heroically on September 11. The message delivered on camera was, "The Federation of Catholic Teachers honors our students who were heroes on September 11. We love them and we love New York." (left photo) The teachers lined up on the steps of one of the Catholic schools closed by Cardinal Egan, to deliver their message. (right photo) FCT President Michele MacDonald and International President Michael Goodwin got a preview of what the commercial

OPEIU mourns loss of great labor leader

Continued from page 1

A lifetime of service to OPEIU

Beauregard's career began as President of his local union, OPEIU 57, in 1959. In 1962, he became a Business Representative, and in 1965 was promoted to the position of Regional Representative of the Eastern Canada Council. He ascended to the position of International Representative in 1974, and then Regional Director for Ontario in 1976. Beauregard was elected Vice President of OPEIU in 1980, and then Secretary-Treasurer in 1986, an office he served until his untimely death.

Beauregard is survived by his wife, Melissa, and a large extended family of children, grandchildren, brothers and sisters.



The following is International President Goodwin's eulogy for Gilles Beauregard, January 8, 2002:

On behalf of the 145,000 members of the OPEIU and their families, we extend our sincere sympathy to Melissa, Gilles' children and the Beauregard family. I also bring condolences from AFL-CIO President John Sweeney, Secretary-Treasurer Richard Trumka and Executive Vice President Linda Chavez-Thompson.

As I looked at the program today, it says "Words of tribute from OPEIU family." It doesn't say OPEIU alone — it says OPEIU family, and that speaks volumes. The words OPEIU and family are used interchangeably.

While we are all here to grieve our loss, the program also reminds us that we are here to celebrate — to celebrate the life of Gilles Beauregard. We are here to celebrate because his life meant something, and the time he spent helping so many people — thousands and thousands of people — who were unable to speak for themselves. If all of the people that Gilles helped were working in a smaller geographic area, there wouldn't be enough room in this church or the largest hall in Montreal to hold them all.

Gilles was loved and respected by so many people who he helped in his life and affected in a positive way. Gilles was responsible for organizing and building many of our OPEIU groups and local unions throughout the United States and Canada.

Yesterday, I met a man named Andre Lavelle. He told me the story of how Gilles organized Montreal Blue Cross. The male bosses were opposed to the Union and the staff was scared. Of the 305 employees, 270 were women, so Gilles decided on a strategy to have them sign up secretly in the ladies room — the one place the male bosses couldn't get into. Thanks to Gilles, Andre had a secure job at Montreal Blue Cross. Later, Andre went on to become a member of Parliament in the National Assembly of Quebec.

The Montreal Blue Cross organizing campaign was nearly 40 years ago, and yet, Mr. Lavelle felt it was important to come yesterday and pay his respects to Gilles and his family, in gratitude to a man who helped him so many years ago. After all these years, he still sees himself as part of Gilles' extended family. This is just one of many examples of what Gilles' life was all about.

You know, there are only 66 unions in the United States AFL-CIO. There are only 66 Secretary-Treasurers in a movement that represents more than 40 million union members and their families. Only 66, and Gilles was one of them. He achieved this over 40 years of dedication and service to working families.

Gilles also served in another important position, as Secretary-Treasurer of the AFL-CIO's Department of Professional Employees (DPE), representing millions of professional employees in all walks of life. The Department had so much respect for Gilles that they elected him as their Secretary-Treasurer. In OPEIU, Gilles served as Secretary to our \$38 million pension plan, making sure that monies were well invested and that the highest possible benefits were paid. As OPEIU Secretary-Treasurer, he was elected to six consecutive terms and, had his life been extended, I am sure that he would have been elected to six more.

Several centuries ago, in his play Macbeth, William Shakespeare referred to life as "a brief candle" and as "an hour of time on life's stage" ... this brevity of life must be spent well, and how much more can one person do than dedicate their life to helping others. That's what Gilles did with his life, and that's why we are here to celebrate and are so proud of him — proud to have known him, proud to have worked with him, proud to have loved him.

Yes, Gilles' life and his great contributions to his fellow man is truly one that should be celebrated.

While we grieve for him today, we are comforted by knowing that no man could have done more.

The following is OPEIU Canadian Director Michel Lajeunesse's eulogy, January 8, 2002:

First, I would like to thank Melissa and her family for this mark of confidence for having me give this eulogy for our friend Gilles.

It is difficult to paint a picture of a man whose life has come to an end. It is much more difficult to celebrate the life of a friend with so many great qualities knowing that many of which I'll forget to mention.

I thought it would be easier if I made this eulogy in three parts for each major stage of Gilles' professional life: his activist times when he founded the union at Gaz

Métropolitain up until his departure for Ontario where (here's the second step) he served as International Vice President. And finally, the past sixteen years, when he was International Secretary-Treasurer. After some thought, I discarded the idea. He was a man whose personal and professional lives were a whole, intertwined, knitted together.

I want to be able to talk in my own way, of course, about his tenacity, dedication, friendship, his cleverness, his kindness. Each one of us has our own fond memories of Gilles, at every stage of his life, and each one of us will always remember him for these qualities and the consistency we all saw in him.

At first sight, he seemed frail: he was not very tall, he had some stiffness in the neck, his voice was sometimes wavered and his fingers sometimes faltered. And yet, Gilles had a colossal capacity for work that only his strength of character could rival.

For many, many years, Gilles travelled from cities to towns, suitcases in hand, travelling across Québec and Ontario organizing and building unions, negotiating a better life for the men and women of this country. It is hard to imagine the sacrifices his family made for this husband, this father who would come home after a week spent on the road only to see him leave home again for another week. I remember him working twenty hours straight during conventions (just this past summer) to ensure that everything would run smoothly. I remember him dealing with serious situations, urgent problems, printing delays, computer troubles, and all the while being solicited by all for a variety of reasons: one would wish another room, the address of a good restaurant, or needed transportation, or simply have a few minutes of his time to dis-

cuss some issues. And Gilles, as if by magic, would take care of all these urgent tasks, and attend to all of these special requests.

One must say that for Gilles there was never a big or small event, or a big or small service to be rendered. Gilles always felt that he owed his friendship to everyone, he always believed himself in debt to others while nothing was ever owed to him.

Over a period of 40 years, his knowledge of our organization was complete. He knew what the responsibilities of his duties were and everything that came with them. His docile character when faced with complaints, and all the pressures from his friends, stemmed from his love and trust and his full dedication to his OPEIU family.

He loved his job with passion including the most routine tasks. That was the secret behind his conduct and his actions. And his passion stemmed from the soundness of his judgement. Gilles had an acute mind that marked his administration, giving it credibility.

A brilliant demonstration of his discernment is when he decided to withdraw all of our funds from a financial institution that, at the time, was making no progress in the transferable securities a week prior to its filing for bankruptcy. He applied his keenness when he gave his full support to the recruitment of professionals and even helped out when it was necessary. And it is with the same passion that he worked to improve our image at all levels. He wanted an image of exemplary professional quality. Loyal to his president, true to his friends, attached to his OPEIU family, Gilles put his insight and his long experience at their service that enabled him to act with confidence and success often giving the credit to others in self-effacement.

Kathleen Kinnick named interim Secretary-Treasurer until Executive Board elected Beauregard successor



International President Michael Goodwin administers the Oath of Office to International Vice President Kathleen Kinnick. Kinnick served as Secretary-Treasurer following the death of Gilles Beauregard on January 3, until the OPEIU Executive Board elected Carol Dupuis as the new Secretary-Treasurer on January 22, 2002.

But what strikes me the most in this man, as it would strike you no matter how long or how well you knew him, was his kindness. Kindness that would show in his eyes and illuminated his smile. I began working with Gilles in 1989. We then began a close friendship. Business but also friendship made us speak on the phone every week, sometimes several times a day.

We sometimes disagreed but we never argued nor did our debates ever turn sour. If Gilles was a fighter, a man of conviction he was, with his friends a man of conciliation. He always seemed to be in agreement with me — and I'm not sure how he did this — but in the end it was me who was in agreement with him.

Gilles cared about his family. I remember one precise occasion: we were in Toronto for a function — a convention or a meeting of some kind — and were staying at the hotel where his son Daniel worked. Daniel would prepare the most wonderful dishes especially for us, and every time, at the end of the evening, Daniel would sit down with his father. I could see in the eyes of the father the pride he had of his son, and in the son's eyes I could see how proud he was of his father. I have not met his other children, or his grandchildren but when he talked about them, I would see all the kindness in his eyes and his luminous smile.

I will never forget Gilles and Melissa. For years I had been the only French-speaking International Vice President in the United States and Gilles and Melissa took me under their wing. I will never forget the afternoons we spent shopping and all the money we spent, the sight-seeing tours, us playing cards with Roméo. I'll also cherish these moments when Gilles would turn to Melissa and tenderly call her a spark-plug of my heart in an amused tone.

I won't talk about his last dealings with sickness except that he endured his illness resolutely. With calm and determination.

In Gilles, we have not lost a Quebecer. We have not lost a Canadian. We have not lost an American citizen by adoption. We are simply watching a friend depart. He's on his way to meet the Marc Boulards, the John Kellys, the Roméo Corbeils. Gilles sowed so many seeds that will remain fertile for a long time. In my eyes, these men have not disappeared. They are the living memory of our friendship and actions. They opened up the road for us and accompanied us for a while. It is up to us to accept their legacy, and continue along the same path. I am certain that somewhere down the road, I'll come across Gilles. I'll be waiting for him at a table in a small café, and we'll each order a coffee, a beer and a cognac.

So long, Gilles.

A message of thanks from Melissa Beauregard

We all give of ourselves uniquely and do what is most natural. Gilles' passion in life was OPEIU. I understand that love now. Gilles always referred to OPEIU as "This Great Organization." When my world fell apart on January 3, President Michael Goodwin found the necessary strength to look after the many details that were required. The mere presence of Mike gave our family the strength to deal with the whole situation. Mike and the OPEIU family were there for us in every possible way. I can't thank you enough, Mike. I hope someday to be able to express my gratitude; we could not have made it without you. I now realize what Gilles was saying when he referred to you, with great pride, as "My President."

The compassion from each and every one of you has been heartfelt. Your handwritten letters, the cards and flowers and the many phone calls have helped our family deal with the sorrow. At one point, while reading a very moving letter from one of the members, I stated to my daugh-

ter that I wished Gilles could see the outpouring of love and admiration. Shanda said something I will never forget. She said that Gilles knew of this love and respect, which is why he gave of his life for his OPEIU family. Gilles knew that we pass through this world only once and therefore any good that he could do or any kindness that he could show to any fellow creature would not be forgotten.

The greatest honor friends can pay you is to tell you about something good that your loved one has done. All of you have contributed to that memory and I'm deeply touched. Once again, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to each and every one of you.

It is said that any disaster you survive is an improvement in your character, your stature and your life. Well, at this moment, I've not found that place of inner peace. I've not found the inner resources of the courage and strength. The question, "Why," is foremost in my mind. But time will heal and I will carry his light with me wherever I go. All of you are helping me to cross that bridge and I'm eternally grateful.

With Affection,
Melissa Beauregard

Local 32 officers sworn in



Newly elected officers of Local 32, Union, New Jersey, are sworn in by International President Michael Goodwin on February 4, 2002. Pictured (left to right) are: Goodwin and the Local 32 officers, President Edward Andryszczyk, Vice President Juanita Ray, Secretary-Treasurer Steven Tully, and Recording Secretary Mary Short.



Local 32's officers and Executive Board celebrate the election. Pictured (left to right) are: (seated) Executive Board Members: Diane Spillane, Gloria Hunter, Norma Cruz-Vazquez, Gloria Williams, (standing) Richard Alter and Bobbie Comer; President Edward Andryszczyk; OPEIU President Michael Goodwin; Executive Board Member Joy Crane; Secretary-Treasurer Steven Tully, Recording Secretary Mary Short; Executive Board Members: Florence Barnes, Debbie Bastinelli and Phil Smith; Vice President Juanita Ray; Executive Board Members: Allen Byron and William Campbell.

ITPEU contributes to WTC relief fund



Photo credit: Daniel W. Duncan, Maritime Trades Dept., AFL-CIO

John Conley, President of the Industrial, Technical and Professional Employees Union (ITPEU) presents OPEIU International President Michael Goodwin with a contribution to the OPEIU's Relief Fund. The fund was established to assist OPEIU members affected by the September 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. ITPEU affiliated with the OPEIU in 2001 as Local 4873.

OPEIU establishes Professional Helicopter Pilots Association

As part of efforts to organize and represent the interests of those within the helicopter pilot industry, OPEIU has established the Professional Helicopter Pilots Association (PHPA). Members of the PHPA met in New Orleans on February 25,

and elected its Executive Board. PHPA includes Local 102 (Fort Rucker, Ala.), Local 107 (Offshore Logistics, Inc.), and Local 108 (Petroleum Helicopter, Inc.). For further information about PHPA, see page 16.



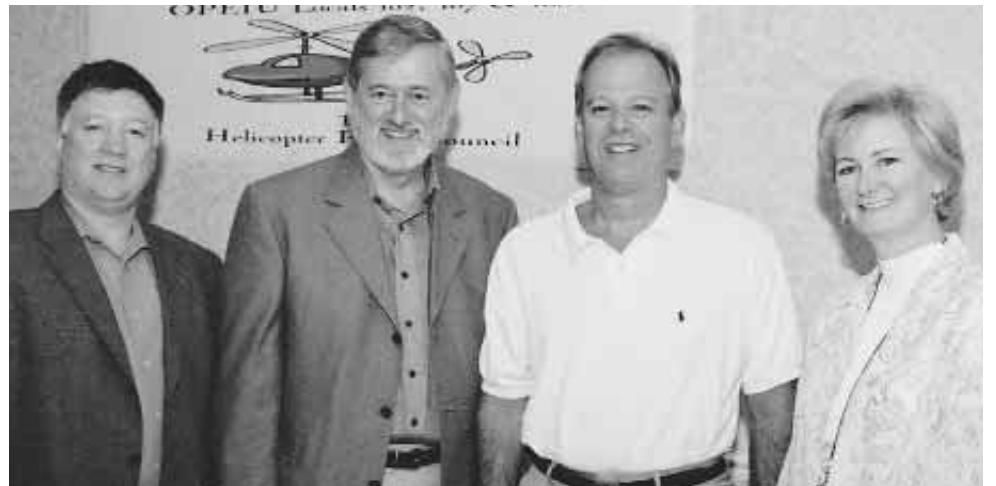
Ed Wytkind, Executive Director of the AFL-CIO Transportation Trades Department (TTD) speaks to the PHPA Council on February 25 as OPEIU Director of Organization and Field Services Kevin Kistler and OPEIU Secretary-Treasurer Carol Dupuis look on.



Executive Board members of the newly established PHPA Council receive an official document from Secretary-Treasurer Carol Dupuis.



Newly elected officers of the PHPA Council. Pictured (left to right) are: Jack Bower, Secretary-Treasurer; Butch Grafton, President; Ron Whitney, Vice President. The officers were elected by the PHPA Council on February 25 and took office effective March 1, 2002.



Paul Hallisay, Executive Assistant to the President of the Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA), with OPEIU's Kevin Kistler, Mike Goodwin and Carol Dupuis.



Members of the PHPA. Also pictured are OPEIU International Representative Paul Bohelski (standing, third from left), International President Michael Goodwin (standing, seventh from left), International Vice President J.B. Moss (standing, third from right), and ROC Organizer Jeff Rusich (standing, far right).

PHI pilots receive Safety Achievement Award

Local 108 recognizes superior performance of duo during aircraft emergency

At the first quarter meeting of the PHI Aircrew Association OPEIU, Local 108, in New Iberia, Louisiana, two pilots employed by Petroleum Helicopters, Inc. were presented The Presidential Safety Award of Honor by local President Stephen D. Ragin. Captains Dana Raaz and Dave Metz were the pilots aboard a Bell 412 helicopter when it experienced what could have been a catastrophic engine failure.

Shortly after departing an offshore heliport in South Marsh Island area of the Gulf of Mexico the number two engine of the aircraft experienced an unexplained failure. Captain Raaz, the pilot in command, along with First Officer Metz, quickly assessed the emergency and took action.

The crew diverted to Patterson, La. where they performed an emergency landing without further incident to the passengers or aircraft. "The incident could have easily ended quite differently were it not for the outstanding performance of these two professionals," Ragin said. "These pilots were aboard a crippled aircraft, with 13 passengers and minimal fuel reserves. Landing this aircraft safely, without so much as a scratch on any of their passengers, or further damage to the aircraft, speaks volumes about their level of professionalism and proficiency," he added.

The Presidential Safety Award of Honor was established to recognize superior performance, achievement and professionalism of pilots during aircraft emergencies.

OPEIU organizing mechanics at Air Logistics

ROC Organizer Jeff Rusich reports that an election is being held for representation of mechanics at Air Logistics, a subsidiary of Offshore Logistics, Inc. Ballots were mailed to the 326 mechanics on March 19. Election results will be reported in the next edition of White Collar.

Local 107 of the OPEIU was formed in 1997 when a majority of pilots for Air Logistics and Air Logistics of Alaska voted in favor of representation. The contract with Offshore Logistics was ratified in May 1999.

Lobbyist Corner

Anti-terrorism, economic stimulus bills at forefront of Congressional agenda

Submitted by OPEIU Lobbyist Robert McGlotten of McGlotten & Jarvis

The first session of the 107th Congress recently ended and expectedly, legislation concerning the aftermath of September 11 was on the front burner. OPEIU wholeheartedly stands by the president and his administration in America's war against terrorism. Yet, we also believe that legislation affecting domestic issues needs to be acted upon. This issue's Lobbyist Corner seeks to inform you of the many legislative issues that Congress faced in the previous session and also where OPEIU stands on these matters.

Anti-Terrorism

The September 11 attacks prompted several bills in Congress including an authorization of war, \$40 billion in emergency spending, new legal weapons for law enforcement to use against suspected terrorists, an airline bailout and stronger protections for air travelers. These bills passed and were signed into law by President Bush. OPEIU supported all anti-terrorism measures signed into law by the president.

Tax Cut

Congress approved tax cuts totaling \$1.35 trillion over 10 years. This is the largest cut since the Reagan administration. OPEIU opposes this monster tax cut because too much of this money is being given back to corporations and the wealthy, and not in the pocket of hard-working, middle-class Americans.

Education Bill

Congress passed many facets of President Bush's education platform in a sweeping education bill. The federal education programs were totally overhauled. Student testing is now required to measure schools' performance and using the leverage of federal aid to force improvements in failing schools will be implemented. President Bush's controversial proposal for private school vouchers was dropped from the bill. OPEIU supports the education bill.

Brownfields

One of Congress' last actions during the first session was to pass a bi-partisan, administration-backed bill to help reclaim contaminated and abandoned industrial sites. OPEIU supports the bill.

Economic Stimulus

President Bush recently signed into law a scaled-back economic stimulus package supported by Senate Democrats. The compromised version of the bill extends unemployment benefits and cuts taxes for businesses, but was stripped of bigger tax cuts.

Election Law Reform

After last year's election debacle in Florida, Congress sought to pass a bill to reform election laws and procedures. The House passed a bill, but the Senate's busy schedule prevented any action in this session. It is expected that the Senate will take up similar legislation in the next session. OPEIU supports updating our voting equipment and practices.

Patients' Bill of Rights

The House and Senate passed different versions of a patients' bill of rights. The main

disparity in the bills is the ability for a patient to sue HMOs. OPEIU supports the Senate version.

Prescription Drug Benefits

Similarly to a patients' bill of rights, legislators could not agree on a prescription drug plan for seniors. Again, like the patients' bill of rights, Congress hopes to take this up next session. OPEIU supports giving relief to our seniors by supporting a prescription drug plan.

Trade

The House approved a bill to expand presidential authority to negotiate trade agreements, but the Senate put off action until the next session. OPEIU is opposed to trade agreements because of the loss of U.S. jobs.

Immigration Reform

Immigration reform and improving relations with Mexico were diverted to the next session because of the busy schedule. OPEIU supports immigration reform.

Minimum Wage Increase

The Senate Democrats planned to push for a \$1.50 increase to the federal hourly minimum wage, but got sidetracked by other legislation. OPEIU supports a minimum wage increase.

Getting involved

Grassroots involvement significantly amplifies our Union's lobbying efforts. Phone calls and personal letters encouraging your congressional representatives to back labor-friendly measures are invaluable. Elected officials need direct feedback from our members, urging them to sponsor and support OPEIU-endorsed legislation. Every letter counts. Every phone call can make a difference. If you prefer to make written contact, OPEIU strongly advises you to mail all correspondence, as opposed to sending an e-mail. With your support, we can press for more immediate action on key bills awaiting hearings in both the House and Senate, such as the Minimum Wage and the Patient Protection Act.

If you 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, D.C. 20515; phone (202) 225-7000; hours 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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, D.C. 20510.

You may also phone the United States 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 web sites contain links to congressional directories: <http://www.house.gov/writerep> and http://www.senate.gov/learning/learn_faqs.html. You can also access this information at your local library.

La Causa exhibit at the American Labor Museum

The American Labor Museum/Botto House National Landmark has opened the exhibit titled La Causa: A History of the United Farm Workers Union, which is on loan from the Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. The exhibition, which closes on August 24, 2002, traces 36 years (1962-1998) of struggles of the United Farm Workers of America (UFW) to obtain justice and dignity for all workers who toil in the fields of American agribusiness. OPEIU International President Michael Goodwin serves as President of the museum.

The UFW, led by Cesar Chavez until his death in 1993, continues to organize campaigns under the leadership of President Arturo Rodriguez for better conditions in the fields and against improper use of pesticides. In addition to the exhibit, the museum has a collection of

books and videocassettes about the UFW that the general public can borrow for free.

The American Labor Museum/Botto House is located at 83 Norwood Street, Haledon, New Jersey. It was the meeting place for more than 20,000 silk mill workers during the 1913 Paterson Silk Strike (for further history of the museum, see previous issues of White Collar). The museum offers a free lending book, audio and video cassette library, restored period rooms, changing exhibits, a museum store, Old World gardens, educational and cultural programs and special events. The museum's hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tours are offered Wednesdays through Saturdays from 1-4 p.m. or by appointment. For further information, call (973) 595-7953 or email labormuseum@aol.com.

Work and Health

Health Care in Stressful Times

By Phillip L. Polakoff, M.D.

Americans who have chronic health conditions need to be especially careful in these stressful times not to inadvertently neglect or disrupt their health care routines.

Numerous government and private health agencies report an overall increase in anxiety, depression, stress and sleeplessness since September 11. When these new and added worries are added to the ongoing concern of taking care of a chronic condition, some people may unintentionally slight their prescribed health program.

The American Kidney Fund (AKF) is asking Americans who have diabetes and high blood pressure, for example, to pay special attention to their health care routines.

Diabetes and high blood pressure are the main causes of End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD), or kidney failure. Once the kidneys fail, the only treatments are kidney dialysis or kidney transplantation.

“Controlling your blood sugar is very important in preventing kidney failure if you have diabetes, just as controlling your high blood pressure is the key to preventing SRD if you have high blood pressure,” says Dr. Gary Curhan, a kidney specialist and AKF board member.

Carol Lynn Halal, AKF senior director of patient services added: “It is particularly important for people with diabetes and hypertension to stay with their health regimen

because the stakes are higher. They may require a special effort as they feel — like everyone else — a little more distracted and a little less secure than they did before September 11.”

The American Kidney Fund is a national voluntary health organization providing direct financial assistance for the benefit of kidney patients through comprehensive educational programs, clinical research and community service projects.

The British Medical Journal recently reported results of a study of two groups of obese patients with asthma. They ranged in age from 18 to 60.

The “treatment” group attended educational sessions on weight control and asthma for 14 weeks and was prepared to eat a very low calorie diet for eight of those weeks.

The “control” group attended educational sessions on asthma and allergy for 14 weeks, but they ate as usual.

The treatment group averaged a weight loss of about 31 pounds, and maintained a loss of about 25 pounds a year after starting the study. The control group lost less than one pound and gained an average of five pounds after one year.

The slimmed-down people showed a 7.2 percent improvement in lung function compared with the control group. That’s something to think about if you have asthma and are carrying too much weight.



Washington Window Helping the Few, Not the Many

If there’s one thing you can’t accuse the Republicans in Congress of, it’s inconsistency.

Come rain or shine, come terrorist-hijacked airplanes or anthrax through the mail, the lawmakers are hell-bent on helping their rich campaign contributors and giving crumbs to workers.

How else can you explain the following facts:

The terrorist attacks ground all U.S. air traffic for the better part of a week. The airlines, already reeling from the start of the recession, go hat-in-hand to Congress for a \$15 billion bailout. Workers join them, figuring that jobs may be saved. Congress approves the bailout.

But the money goes to airline top brass. And then United CEO James Goodwin makes a bad situation worse. Just after his huge carrier winds hundreds of millions of dollars, Goodwin states it might not survive next year. Meanwhile, airline workers get zip. A Senate GOP filibuster kills legislation to help them. [Editor’s Note: A campaign by the Machinists’ Union led to Goodwin’s resignation in October 2001.]

The insurance industry says it has the wherewithal to handle all the claims — totaling billions of dollars — from the destruction of the World Trade Center. Yet lawmakers and the Bush administration put together a package to have the insurers handle the first 30 percent or so of the damages, and the government — read “the taxpayers” — pick up the rest.

This couldn’t have anything to do with the fact that the insurers were big campaign contributors, could it? And while the big boys angle for their bailout, the little shopkeepers on the downtown streets of Manhattan who have seen business disappear since September 11, are left out. They wind up joining a line of 10,000 jobless workers at a New York City jobs fair.

President Bush and Congress recognize the country was slipping into a recession even before the terrorist attacks. They fashion a “stimulus” package to, they say, put the country back to work. Bush wants it passed by the end of November.

But 95 percent of the stimulus is comprised of three-year-or-longer tax cuts for the rich and for big business. One provision will save IBM alone \$1.4 billion.

And Rep. William Thomas (R-Calif.), chairman of the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee, boldly declares that since business creates jobs for workers, business, not workers, must get the tax cuts.

No wonder AFL-CIO President John J. Sweeney called Thomas’ tax cuts “a total disgrace” and a “shameless approach” to stimulating the economy, full of “twisted priorities.”

As if that wasn’t bad enough, the Pentagon throws in a case of political favoritism, while hurting union workers.

With the military poised to spend billions on the war against terrorism, the Defense Department awards the biggest fighter construction contract ever to Martin Marietta Corp., not Boeing. The contract is so huge that analysts note it will keep the winner going economically for the next 40 years or so.

Martin Marietta’s headquarters are in a D.C. suburb, but it has huge plants in Texas. A few of its workers are unionized.

Boeing just moved its headquarters from Seattle to Chicago. Its plants, in Seattle, St. Louis, Wichita and elsewhere are almost all unionized.

President Bush is a Republican from Texas. House Majority Leader Richard K. Armey is a right-wing Republican from Texas. House Majority Whip Thomas DeLay, the man who really runs the House, is an ultra-right-wing anti-worker Republican from Texas.

The Pentagon isn’t stupid. It knows where the power is. We believe that’s one reason Martin Marietta got the contract.

Finally, when the anthrax-in-the-mail crisis hit, the GOP-run House skedaddled out of the Capitol and had all of its staffers tested. The Democratic-run Senate, where the anthrax-poisoned letter actually arrived — infecting an aide to Majority Leader Thomas Daschle — stayed put, but also had all of its workers tested. The workers got antibiotics, too.

But it took at least another four days — and after anthrax killed two postal workers — for authorities to wake up and test the workers and their job site, the Brentwood mail distribution center in D.C. Again, government’s helping the influential few and not the working many. Just more of the same.

Union Plus Legal Service Program

Legal Ease

Expert legal advice at your fingertips



Union Plus Working For Working Families

www.unionprivilege.org

For more information about the OPEIU, visit our website at <http://www.opeiu.org>

NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES SUBJECT TO UNION SECURITY CLAUSES

This Notice is for all employees working in the United States under an OPEIU contract containing a union security clause which requires, as a condition of employment, that an employee pay dues or fees to the Union. The obligation stated in this Notice is the only obligation under such clause regardless of the wording of the clause. Individuals who are members pay dues, while individuals who are nonmembers pay equivalent fees. These dues or fees, which are authorized by law, are your fair share of sustaining your Union's broad range of programs in support of you and your coworkers, but nonmembers may file objections to funding expenditures that are not germane to the collective bargaining process and thereby be obligated to pay fees representing only expenditures germane to the collective bargaining process.

Only if you are not a member of the Union or if you resign your membership, and in either case, file an objection to the funding of expenditures that are not germane to the collective bargaining process, may you pay fees representing only expenditures germane to the collective bargaining process. However, if you resign your membership, the many rights and opportunities available to Union members will not be open to you. For example, if you resign your membership you will no longer be able to:

- Vote on the terms of your contract;
- Participate in strike votes;
- Participate in the development of contract proposals;
- Nominate, vote for, or serve as an officer of your Local Union;
- Nominate, vote for, or serve as a delegate to the International Convention; and
- Enjoy discounts and other benefits available only to members, including eligibility for OPEIU scholarships for you and your family.

Individuals who are employed by public employers in the states of New Jersey and Minnesota are covered by the demand and return system applicable to them and are not covered by this procedure. Other individuals who elect to be nonmembers may object to funding expenditures which are not germane to the collective bargaining process. Expenditures germane to the collective bargaining process ("chargeable" expenditures) represent that portion of the Union's expenditures devoted to collective bargaining, contract administration, grievances, arbitration, and other matters affecting wages, hours and other conditions of employment. Examples of "chargeable" expenditures include: the costs of negotiations with employers; contract administration expenses; communication with employers in regard to work-related issues; handling employees' work-related problems through the grievance and arbitration procedure; lobbying on matters directly related to conditions of employment; and Union administration.

Examples of expenditures not germane to the collective bargaining process ("non-chargeable" expenditures) include: expenses made for community services; for lobbying on issues that benefit represented employees and their families as citizens rather than as workers; for

political purposes; for certain affiliation fees; and for benefits available only to members and their families. The fee reduction will represent these non-chargeable expenditures. The International Union's Voice Of The Electorate fund ("VOTE"), is an independent, segregated fund that receives voluntary donations and contributes to political candidates who support the needs of working men and women. No money received from dues or fees goes to the VOTE fund. Accordingly, the VOTE fund is not considered in the calculation of the percentage of expenditures that is spent on non-chargeable expenses.

Individuals who choose to file an objection will receive a rebate of their fees equal to the percentage of expenditures that is spent on non-chargeable expenses. This percentage is calculated separately for the International Union and for the Local Union. The major portion of an objector's fee remains with the Local Union. Studies show that the percentage of reduction for the Local Union ranges between 0% and 8%. The remaining smaller portion of the objector's fee goes to the International Union. The percentage of non-chargeable expenses of the International Union, which will be effective for the months of September 2001 through August 2002, is 14.21%.

Individuals who choose to file objections to funding expenditures that are not germane to the collective bargaining process must file them in writing with the Office and Professional Employees International Union, 1660 L Street, N.W., Suite 801, Washington, D.C. 20036, Attention: Carol Dupuis, Secretary-Treasurer. The objection must include the objector's name, home address, social security number, employer, job title, department, work location, local union number, and business telephone number.

In order for an objection to be recognized at this time, it must be postmarked during the month of June, except that newly resigned members must submit their objections postmarked within thirty (30) days from the receipt by the Union of the resigning member's letter of resignation. All objections must be renewed each year in writing and all renewed objections must be postmarked during the month of June. All objections will be effective on the first day of the month following the month in which the objection was received by the Union.

In addition to any other avenue of relief available under the law, an objector may challenge the International Union's and/or the Local Union's classification or calculation of expenditures before a neutral arbitrator appointed by the American Arbitration Association pursuant to its Rules for Impartial Determination of Union Fees. Any challenge a nonmember makes may be coordinated or consolidated with other challenges to the Local Union or International Union determinations before a single arbitrator selected by the American Arbitration Association. Such challenges may also be coordinated or consolidated with challenges to other OPEIU Local Union classifications or calculations.

Challengers must notify Carol Dupuis, Secretary-Treasurer, Office and Professional Employees International Union, 1660 L

Street, N.W., Suite 801, Washington, D.C. 20036, in writing, within thirty (30) days of their receipt of the Objector Letter, of any challenge he or she wishes to make through this arbitration procedure. That challenge should specify which classifications and/or calculations of the International Union and/or Local Union are being challenged.

The Unions shall bear the burden of justifying their classifications and calculations. If a hearing at which the parties or witnesses may be present is held by the arbitrator, it will be held at a location most convenient to the largest number of involved challengers. The cost of any arbitration proceedings will be paid for by the Unions. However, a challenger will have to pay his or her own lost time and travel expenses, and the fees, costs, and expenses of any persons they involve in

the proceedings.

Once a written challenge is received from an objector, the Local Union will place an amount equal to the challenged portion of the fee into an interest-bearing escrow account. It shall remain in that account until the arbitrator issues a decision. Should the decision lower the percentage of chargeable expenditures, the appropriate portion of the escrowed fees, plus the interest earned by that portion while in the escrow account, will be refunded to the challenger. All objectors in each Local Union affected by the decision of the arbitrator will then pay the adjusted fee amount determined by the arbitrator. If the arbitrator approves the Unions' classifications and/or calculations, the escrowed money and interest will revert to the Local and International Unions.

AFL-CIO recommends mandatory 4-cent tax for member mobilization

The AFL-CIO Executive Council voted February 26 for a mandatory four-cents-per-member tax, imposed on its individual unions, to boost money for "member mobilization," federation President John J. Sweeney said.

Sweeney, speaking during the council's meeting in New Orleans, said the money would go for education, get-out-the-vote, member information and political activism, but not for direct contributions to candidates.

"It has become publicly clear that even in a struggling economy, with high unemployment and the ... most deceit-driven corporate failure in history, that working families are still not a priority for the Bush administration or the Republican Congress," Sweeney explained.

So the council decided "to confront such atrocities by aggressively promoting an agenda for America. If we won't do it, nobody will," he declared.

The proposed 4-cents-per-member tax will fund the campaign, which will advocate more infrastructure investment, more money for education and job training, and raising the minimum wage.

The AFL-CIO campaign will also demand reforming trade "to keep good jobs at home," increasing available and affordable health care, and holding corporations accountable for their actions — as Enron wasn't.

To promote the agenda and fund the campaign, the council, with IAM voting no, recommended the tax. It would start July 1 if approved by the AFL-CIO General Board of presidents of all member unions. The board meets in Manhattan on May 22.

The tax would raise \$3.5 million in the last six months of this year and \$7 million in each of the next two years. It would also put the federation's political education program on a permanent funding footing, Sweeney said.

That spending would be separate from the approximately \$35 million the federation plans to pump into politics in the 2001-2002 election cycle, political director Steve Rosenthal said. Some one-third of that was spent last year.

Federation political committee chair

Gerald McEntee, the AFSCME president, said the hike is absolutely necessary.

He cited the political climate, the need to educate workers, and issues such as the threat to pensions posed by Enron-like collapses, privatization of Social Security and Bush administration anti-worker actions.

"There is a great deal at stake for working people in the upcoming election," McEntee said. "Our members will insist that their issues become a genuine priority in politics. And our political program dedicates resources for the biggest mid-term mobilization and all-out grassroots campaign, to make it happen."

Rosenthal said the regular election spending — as opposed to money from the new tax — will be allotted after state and local federations make political endorsements in races ranging from local offices on up to governors and the U.S. Senate.

"Then we discuss how do we move our members, what staff they (the affiliates) need, doing mailings and phone banks and getting out to worksites. It's as much one-on-one communications as possible," he said.

Those one-on-one talks will have to counter a push by the radical right, big business and Bush to wrap their causes and candidates in the flag of the U.S. battle against terrorism.

McEntee said union leaders believe working family issues will trump that.

"It was the feeling of everyone here that September 11 was one of the most serious events to face this country.

"But they also felt that the issues of September 10 didn't change. Those issues were all created by this economy created, essentially, by George Bush," McEntee added, referring to the recession, rising joblessness and the disappearance of the federal surplus into red ink.

"We think that if we go to working families with a strong voice on issues like health care, prescription drugs, privatizing Social Security and Medicare, you'll find that the perception hasn't changed," he said. "If we take the issues of real concern — these domestic issues — we can win these elections."

Canadian News

Local 378

Campaign to save ICBC underway

As part of its ongoing campaign to save the government auto insurance operation, Insurance Corporation of B.C., OPEIU Local 378 has launched a consumer information website at www.saveicbc.com. The mission is to persuade the BC Liberal

government not to turn the crown corporation over to private insurance companies.

"We are trying to inform the public with facts and statistics. ICBC offers coverage that is better, cheaper and safer," OPEIU Local 378 President Jerri New said.

BC Hydro employees launch Hands Off Hydro campaign to fight privatization, deregulation and break up of crown corporation

Campaign includes ads, website, lobbying

Local 378, which represents more than 3,000 BC Hydro workers, launched a province-wide Hands Off Hydro campaign in December to stop the BC Liberal government's plans to privatize, deregulate and break up the crown corporation.

Ads in daily newspapers called on the public to send a message to elected BC Liberal representatives that selling off BC Hydro to the private sector would lead to higher electricity prices for consumers, less reliable service and the use of polluting energy sources like coal and oil. A website, www.handsoffhydro.com, has gone online to provide information and allow the public to send email opposing the government's plans to their MLAs.

"BC Hydro provides affordable, reliable and clean power — and it's owned by the public," Local 378 President Jerri New said. "Why should we put all that at risk when we

can clearly see the problems privatization and deregulation have caused in California, Alberta and elsewhere?"

"The energy industry disaster we have just seen in the United States with the bankruptcy of Enron Corporation, one of the biggest private electricity players, shows just how important it is to keep BC Hydro as an integrated public utility and not gamble away one of BC's greatest resources," New said. BC Hydro provides government with revenue needed for health care, education, child protection and other services. In the last fiscal year, BC Hydro contributed \$904 million to the province and local governments.

New said OPEIU members, joined by members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 258 at BC Hydro, will fight vigorously to keep BC Hydro together and publicly owned.

Local 378 files injunction application at British Columbia Supreme Court

Files additional applications at BC Utilities Commission and Labour Relations Board to fight privatization

Local 378, the union that represents most BC Hydro workers, filed an injunction application in BC Supreme Court in late December 2001 in an attempt to block the privatization, deregulation and break up of BC Hydro — which it says the BC Liberal government is quickly moving towards.

And Local 378 has also filed two additional applications — one with the BC Utilities Commission and another with the BC Labour Relations Board that, if successful, will further restrict BC Hydro from privatizing its operations.

BC Hydro has said it is negotiating with several corporations to either have them take over or partner on three separate Hydro components — information systems (Westech) and customer and fleet services.

Local 378 President Jerri New says the injunction application asks the Supreme Court to put a halt to the government's privatization attempts because the union believes it is a clear violation of the BC Utilities Commission Act. A second application asks the BC Utilities Commission to hold a hearing on BC Hydro's actions, direct BC Hydro to immediately stop privatization efforts,

direct BC Hydro to disclose all relevant documents and for the BC Utilities Commission to hold public hearings on the public interest concerns regarding BC Hydro privatization.

"The BC Utilities Commission Act requires the Utilities Commission to consider and rule on the public interest in important energy matters and to ensure that decisions being made are both necessary and in the public interest," New said. "We are therefore arguing that this government has no right to take such fundamental and damaging actions as to privatize BC Hydro without putting their plans forward to the BC Utilities Commission and without undergoing a full public hearing process.

"Furthermore, we believe that the government should recognize that the public deserves to be heard on such an important issue as the privatization, deregulation and break up of a valuable public asset as BC Hydro, and should not have to be forced to do so in court," New said. The union will withdraw its injunction application if Premier Gordon Campbell agrees that the BC Utilities Commission hold full and open public hearings and make a ruling on the BC Hydro situation, New said.

Oops!

In the last issue of White Collar (Issue 4, Winter 2001-2002), the following members were misidentified. Below are the captions as they should have appeared. We apologize for the error.

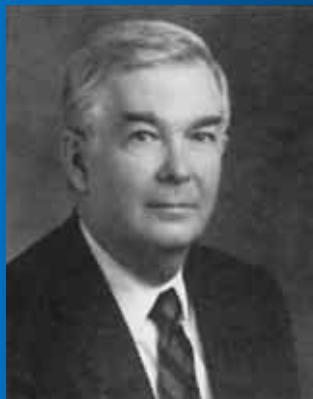


Secretary-Treasurer Thomas O'Shaughnessey, Local 140, Burbank, California, discusses resolutions with Chief



Karen Rockwell, Local 378, Vancouver, British Columbia.

SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINES EXTENDED TO APRIL 30, 2002



Office and Professional Employees International Union John Kelly Labor Studies Scholarship Fund

Office and Professional Employees International Union John Kelly Labor Studies Scholarship Fund Application Form Application Deadline: April 30, 2002

Name of Applicant _____
Last First Middle

Home Address _____
Street

City State Zip Code Telephone Number

Date of Birth _____ Social Security Number _____ Sex M F

Applicant Employed By _____

OPEIU Local Union Number _____

*** Must be a member of an OPEIU Local Union**

Name of School you are currently attending _____

Date of Graduation _____

What College, University, Technical, or Vocational School do you plan to attend?

First Choice _____ Location _____

Second Choice _____ Location _____

Third Choice _____ Location _____

Have you been accepted by a College, University, Technical, or Vocational School, as of this date?

NO _____ Yes _____

If you answered yes, at what College, University, Technical, or Vocational School were you accepted?

The applicant must be either an undergraduate or graduate in one of the following areas of study.

Please mark the area of study.

_____ Labor Studies

_____ Industrial Relations

_____ Social Science

_____ Other Related Field (describe) _____

_____ Non-degree programs sponsored by the National Labor College at the George Meany Center or similar institution.

If selected for this scholarship, I fully agree to adhere to the rules that have been established by the Scholarship Committee of the OPEIU John Kelly Labor Studies Scholarship Fund.

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____

STATEMENT OF INTENT

If selected for this scholarship, it is my intent to remain within the OPEIU for a period of at least two (2) years.

Signature of Applicant _____

Signature of Local Union President or Secretary-Treasurer: _____

Local Union Number _____ Date _____

_____ (Print Name of Signing Officer)

Send Application to: **John Kelly Labor Studies Scholarship Fund
Office & Professional Employees International Union
1660 L Street, NW, Suite 801, Washington, DC 20036
Phone: (202) 393-4464 Fax: (202) 347-0649**

ELIGIBILITY:

Ten (10) scholarships per year will be awarded on the basis of at least one (1) per region and not to exceed one (1) per family for a lifetime. Applications are open to members or associate members in good standing for at least two (2) years. All applicants must meet the eligibility requirements and comply with the Rules and Regulations as established by the OPEIU Executive Board. Each scholarship has a total maximum value of \$2,000.00.

The applicant must be:

- a member or associate member of OPEIU in good standing; and
- either an undergraduate or graduate in one of the following areas of study:
 - Labor Studies
 - Industrial Relations
 - Social Science or a related field
- Non-degree Programs sponsored by the National Labor College at the George Meany Center or similar institution

PROCEDURES:

Each applicant must file an official John Kelly Labor Studies Scholarship Fund application. Application forms must be endorsed by the Local Union President or Secretary-Treasurer attesting that the MEMBER or ASSOCIATE MEMBER is in good standing. Such endorsement must be obtained before the application is submitted.

FORMS:

Application forms may be obtained at your Local Union Office or at the Secretary-Treasurer's office of the International Union.

REQUIREMENTS:

High School Transcript: All applicants are required to submit their High School transcript.

Rank in Class: High School Transcript must show rank in class or rank in class must be provided. In the event the High School does not rank students, approximate rank or percentile and class size must be provided.

College Transcript: If presently enrolled in a College, University or a recognized Technical or Vocational Post-Secondary School, applicant is required to submit College transcript, along with their High School transcript.

Essay: All applicants shall be required to submit an essay on their occupational goals (300 to 500 words). This essay should be double-spaced and typed on 8½" x 11" paper.

Statement of Intent: All applicants shall be required to execute the Statement of Intent to remain within the OPEIU for a period of at least two (2) years.

APPLICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:

All applications, High School transcripts, Rank in Class or approximate rank or percentile and class size must be provided, College Transcripts (if applicable) and Essays must be received at the Secretary-Treasurer's office of the International Union, 1660 L Street, NW, Suite 801, Washington, DC 20036, no later than April 30th of each year.

SELECTION OF SCHOLARSHIP:

The selections shall be based on recommendations of an academic scholarship committee. Announcements of the winners will be made during the month of June of each year.

Office and Professional Employees International Union Howard Coughlin Memorial Scholarship Fund

ELIGIBILITY:

FULL-TIME SCHOLARSHIPS

Twelve (12) full-time scholarships will be awarded on the basis of at least one (1) per region and not to exceed one (1) per family for a lifetime. Applications are open to members in good standing, associate members, or to their children, all of whom must meet the eligibility requirements and comply with the Rules and Regulations as established by the OPEIU Executive Board. Each scholarship is \$1,250.00 per year for a total maximum value of \$5,000.00.

PART-TIME SCHOLARSHIPS

Six (6) part-time scholarships will be awarded on the basis of at least one (1) per region in order to reach a greater number of members, as full-time scholarships are generally awarded to children of members, and not to exceed one (1) per family for a lifetime. Applications are open to members in good standing, associate members, or to their children, all of whom must meet the eligibility requirements and comply with the Rules and Regulations as established by the OPEIU Executive Board. Each part-time scholarship is \$500.00 per year for a total maximum value of \$2,000.00.

Part-time scholarships are defined as a minimum of three (3) credits and no more than two (2) courses.

If a part-time student does not attend a college/university each semester, they have two (2) years maximum to use the part-time scholarship.

If the student becomes a full-time student, while receiving a part-time student scholarship, the scholarship will be revoked, and they will be able to apply for a full-time scholarship.

Part-time scholarship awards shall be subject to all other eligibility rules under this Scholarship Fund.

An applicant must be either:

- A member or an associate member of OPEIU in good standing on the date of award, unless a member loses employment to study on a full-time basis, retires, becomes disabled or terminated from employer layoffs and plant closing.
- The son, daughter, stepchild or legally adopted child of an OPEIU member in good standing or an associate member.
- High School senior or High School graduate entering a College, University or a recognized Technical or Vocational Post-Secondary School as a full-time or part-time student.
- Presently in a College, University, or a recognized technical or Vocational Post-Secondary school as a full-time or part-time student.

PROCEDURES:

Each applicant must file an official OPEIU scholarship fund application. Application forms must be endorsed by the Local Union President or Secretary-Treasurer attesting that a member, a parent of an applicant, or an associate member is in good standing on the date of award. The application form must also be endorsed if a member loses employment to study on a full-time basis, retires, is disabled, or is terminated from employer layoffs and plant closings. **Such endorsement must be obtained before the application is submitted.**

FORMS:

Application forms may be obtained at your Local Union office or at the Secretary-Treasurer's office of the International Union.

REQUIREMENTS:

High School Transcript: All applicants are required to submit their High School transcript.

Rank in Class: High School transcript must show rank in class or rank in class must be provided. In the event the High School does not rank students, approximate rank or percentile and class size must be provided.

College Transcript: If presently enrolled in a College, University or a recognized Technical or Vocational Post-Secondary School as a full/part-time student, applicant is required to submit College transcript, along with their High School transcript.

Test: All applicants are required to take a Scholastic Aptitude Test - SAT - (the admissions Testing Program Examination of the College Entrance Examination Board), American College Testing Program - ACT - or equivalent examination by a recognized Technical or Vocational Post-Secondary School. If you have already taken any of the above tests, you should request your school to forward the results of your test to the Secretary-Treasurer's office of the International Union.

APPLICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:

All applications, High School Transcripts, Rank in Class or approximate rank or percentile and class size, College Transcripts and Test Scores are due in the Secretary-Treasurer's office no later than April 30th of each year.

SELECTION OF SCHOLARSHIP:

The selections shall be based on recommendations of an academic scholarship committee.

Office and Professional Employees International Union Howard Coughlin Memorial Scholarship Fund Application Form Application Deadline: April 30th, 2002

I AM APPLYING FOR A FULL-TIME SCHOLARSHIP YES ___ NO ___

I AM APPLYING FOR A PART-TIME SCHOLARSHIP YES ___ NO ___

Name of Applicant _____

Last First Middle

Home Address _____

Street

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Date of Birth _____ Sex M ___ F ___

Social Security Number _____ Telephone Number _____

Member/Associate Member Name _____

Last First Middle

Home Address _____

Street

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

OPEIU Local Union Number _____

Relationship to Member/Associate Member: Son ___ Daughter ___ Other ___

Name of School you are currently attending _____

Date of Graduation _____

What College, University, Technical, or Vocational School do you plan to attend?

First Choice _____ Location _____

Second Choice _____ Location _____

Third Choice _____ Location _____

Have you been accepted by a College, University, Technical, or Vocational School, as of this date?

YES ___ NO ___

If you answered yes, at what College, University, Technical, or Vocational School were you accepted? _____

If selected for this scholarship, I fully agree to adhere to the rules that have been established by the Scholarship Committee of the OPEIU Howard Coughlin Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____

Signature of Local Union President or Secretary-Treasurer: _____

Local Union Number _____ Date _____

(Print Name of Signing Officer)

Send Application to:

**Howard Coughlin Memorial Scholarship Fund
Office & Professional Employees International Union
1660 L Street, NW, Suite 801
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: (202) 393-4464 Fax: (202) 347-0649**

Office and Professional Employees International Union Romeo Corbeil Memorial Scholarship Fund "Summer Camp"

Six (6) scholarships will be awarded on the basis of at least one (1) per region and not to exceed one (1) per family for a lifetime. Applications are open to children (between ages 13 and 16 ONLY) of OPEIU members in good standing or associate members, all of whom must meet the eligibility requirements and comply with the Rules and Regulations as established by the OPEIU Executive Board. Each scholarship has a total maximum value of \$2,000.00.

ELIGIBILITY:

An applicant must be the son, daughter, stepchild or legally adopted child (between ages 13 and 16 **ONLY**) of an OPEIU member in good standing or an associate member.

PROCEDURES:

Each applicant must file an official OPEIU scholarship fund application. Application forms must be endorsed by the Local Union President or Secretary-Treasurer attesting that a parent of an applicant is a member or an associate member in good standing on the date of award. Such endorsement must be obtained before the application is submitted.

FORMS:

Application forms may be obtained at your Local Union office or at the Secretary-Treasurer's office of the International Union.

APPLICATIONS:

All applications must be received at the Secretary-Treasurer's office of the International Union, 1660 L Street, N. W., Suite 801, Washington, D. C. 20036, no later than April 30th of each year.

TIME AND PLACE:

The **Summer Camp** is held during **August** of each year at University Forest, 153 University Forest Drive, Wappapello, MO 63966, (573) 222-8373, fax (573) 222-8829.

SELECTION OF SCHOLARSHIPS:

Announcement of the winners will be made during the month of June of each year.

OFFICE AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION ROMEO CORBEIL MEMORIAL FUND "SUMMER CAMP" APPLICATION FORM

APPLICATION DEADLINE: April 30th

Name of Applicant _____
Last First M.I. Telephone

Home Address _____
Street

City State Zip Code

Date of Birth _____ Sex M ___ F ___ Soc. Sec. # _____
(MUST BE BETWEEN THE AGES OF 13 AND 16 ONLY)

Member/Associate Member Name _____
Last First M.I.

Home Address _____
Street City State Zip Code

Member/Associate Member Employed By _____ OPEIU Local Union _____

Relationship to Member/Associate Member: Son ___ Daughter ___ Other ___

If my child is selected for this scholarship, I fully agree to adhere to the rules that have been established by the Scholarship Committee.

Signature of Parent of Applicant _____ Date _____

Signature of Local Union President or Secretary-Treasurer: _____
Date _____ Local Union Number _____

(Print name of signing officer)

The **Summer Camp** is in **August** of each year, at University Forest, 153 University Forest Drive, Wappapello, MO 63967, (573) 222-8373, fax (573) 222-8829.

Send applications to: Romeo Corbeil Memorial Scholarship Fund "**Summer Camp**"
Office and Professional Employees International Union
1660 L Street, NW, Suite 801, Washington, DC 20036
PHONE: (202) 393-4464 FAX: (202) 347-0649

Local 12 mourns loss of great union activist



JoAnn Nelson, Local 12,

JoAnn Nelson, a Business Representative for Local 12, Minneapolis, Minnesota, passed away Sunday, March 3, 2002 after a courageous 10-year battle with breast cancer.

Nelson was hired by Local 12 in 1985 and was the first female to serve as a Business Representative for the Local. From her first to her last day on the job, Nelson worked tirelessly to defend the members she represented.

Nelson was a proud Union member for more than 47 years, 30 of those years as a dedicated rank and file member and a stew-

ard with the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workers and the last 17 years as a committed staff member for Local 12. Her entire career was dedicated to improving the working lives of all people she came in contact with, union and non-union alike.

As a staff member of Local 12, Nelson participated in numerous organizing projects, negotiated many contracts, successfully won countless arbitration cases, coordinated steward and negotiating training and processed untold grievances on behalf of the membership.

Nelson's love for the OPEIU was evident

in any union gathering and she cherished the Educational Conferences and the International Union Conventions, which she participated in with her usual vigor. The 1998 International Convention recognized Nelson with a resolution citing her many years of dedicated service to the labor movement. In thanking the Convention for this honor, Nelson told the delegates that she hoped she could live the rest of her years on Earth representing "the good working people of the OPEIU." She did just that — and we will miss her.

OPEIU seeks organizing win at Trinity College

OPEIU is on the verge of organizing 130 employees at Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut. Most of the workers are support staff in the administrative offices and other offices around the campus.

According to Local 153 Business Representative Patricia Hoffman, the lead organizer on this campaign, Trinity College has hired a notorious union-busting firm to

help thwart Local 153's drive to organize the group.

Hoffman has been encouraged by the tremendous support she has seen from Trinity's students and faculty, including letter-writing campaigns and posting flyers around campus.

The vote will take place in March 2002. Election results will be printed in the next edition of White Collar.

Local 320 member continues labor education

In Kansas City, Missouri, Local 320, has bragging rights to a new graduate. John Pennell, a member of Local 320 has completed the Labor Studies Certificate Program, which is offered by the University of Missouri and sponsored by the Institute for Labor Studies. At the October ILS Board meeting, John and Local 320 were honored as John was awarded a framed Certificate recognizing the completion of 18 college credit hours, a reference book (The Lexicon of Labor), and a "Made in USA" T-shirt that declared "Danger: Educated Union Member."

Coursework for the Certificate included the big picture, (Labor and Global Economics, Labor and the History of Working People, and Labor in Politics), as well as the fundamentals of in the trenches collective bargaining, labor law and the right of working people to concerted activities. John was only the sixth labor member in all of Kansas City to make this achievement and his grades were "straight A's." John said his effort shows that "OPEIU Local 320 is out in front and that is what you should expect from OPEIU everywhere..."

Editorial



"Investing in Our Future" Works!

By Michael Goodwin, International President

At the 1995 OPEIU Convention in Vancouver, B.C., the theme was "Investing in our Future," a program designed to lead the OPEIU into the 21st century as a bigger and stronger organization. I am pleased to tell you that all of our hopes, goals and dreams of that great gathering have borne fruit.

I just returned from an AFL-CIO Executive Council meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana held February 26-27, 2002. Among the issues discussed was the organizing performance of AFL-CIO affiliated unions. There are 66 unions in the AFL-CIO and OPEIU finished eighth in 2001 and eighth over the last five years. We grew from 82,279 in 1996 to 108,354 in 2001 in the United States and if you include Canada, from 100,000 in 1996 to 145,000 today! This is a great achievement on both sides of the border. In the U.S., we moved our position in size in the AFL-CIO from 29th in 1996 to 22nd in 2001. In Canada, we are the 14th largest union. We have plans to continue to progress even further in both countries.

None of this progress would have been possible without your support. It was you, through your local union delegates to the 1995 convention, who supported OPEIU's organizing program. Thanks to your foresight and vision, you belong to a union that's moving forward – and at a fairly rapid pace. And don't think other unions haven't noticed. OPEIU now receives more respect and admiration than ever before. I remember a time when OPEIU was looked at as only representing the employees in the trade union offices. Not anymore! We have broadened our jurisdiction to include office and professional employees in every walk of life and in every industry, whether eligible for col-

lective bargaining or working as independent contractors. Either way, OPEIU provides great service to traditional and non-traditional members alike.

Now we are in the process of opening another new frontier with the establishment of the Professional Helicopter Pilots Association (PHPA) based in Metairie, La. PHPA is an OPEIU Council established in accordance with the Constitution and currently includes Local 102 (Fort Rucker, Ala.), Local 107 (Offshore Logistics, Inc.) and Local 108 (Petroleum Helicopter, Inc.). The mission of the Council is "to protect the interests of professional helicopter pilots and to promote professionalism, safety, regulatory representation, education, standards and training for the continued growth of the industry and to organize and represent all helicopter pilots; to render all possible assistance to our fellow members in OPEIU and the AFL-CIO and to have in general, the same aims and purposes of the OPEIU provided for in its constitution in the interests of all helicopter pilots."

PHPA's top priority is to organize all helicopter pilots eligible for collective bargaining. But they've done more than that. They have embarked on an ambitious program to offer associate membership to as many as 40,000 helicopter pilots worldwide. They have established an associate membership program offering services and benefits that will eventually lead to collective bargaining status. PHPA Council officers will be attending a worldwide convention of pilots in Norway during the first week of May. At the convention, they hope to network with as many helicopter pilots from other countries as possible. The PHPA Council is also looking into establishing its own magazine for distribution in the industry. If accomplished, this magazine will be the only publication available written through the eyes of the pilot. I congratulate the PHPA Council for its energy and vision and you can be sure that OPEIU will support their efforts 100%.

I also wish to congratulate Butch Grafton (Local 102) Ron Whitney and Jack Bower (Local 108) who were recently elected President, Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer respectively of the PHPA Council. Thanks also to Steve Ragin and Herb Jossen (Local 108) for their help in locating an office for PHPA headquarters.

In New Orleans we are attempting to organize 1,400 taxi drivers who are classified as independent contractors. This has been a challenging effort. Kevin Kistler, Green Lewis and John Conley have been working

Upon success in New Orleans with the drivers, ITPEU intends to move to other cities and organize independent taxi drivers. They already represent the drivers at several companies in Las Vegas, NV.

One of the largest companies in our union involving the National Labor Relations Board is the election among 2,000 Prudential Representatives scheduled for April. Kevin Kistler and Richard Lanigan have been doing a fantastic job trying to get them organized and covered by collective bargaining. Kevin is also leading major efforts among other

We grew from 82,279 in 1996 to 108,354 in 2001 in the United States and if you include Canada, from 100,000 in 1996 to 145,000 today!

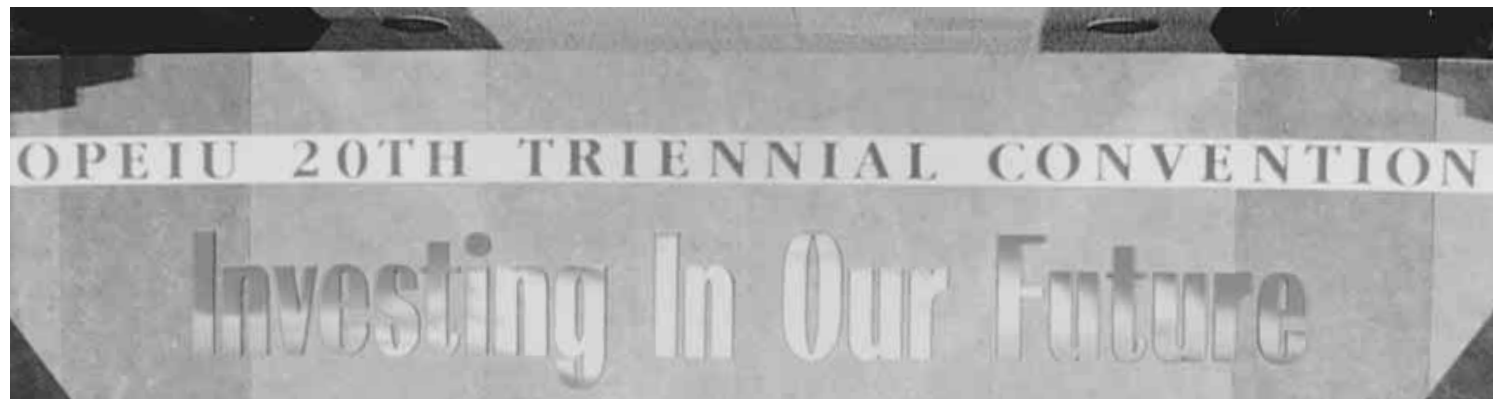
for months to put together a program that all taxi drivers can relate to which would include auto insurance at a discount rate, union privilege benefits and political involvement. At a general meeting of the drivers on February 26, mayoral candidates were invited to speak on how they would help the industry if elected. OPEIU Local 4873 (ITPEU) is leading the drive and I'm very proud of the commitment and support the drivers have received from John Conley. He has been a great inspiration to the drivers.

insurance industry agents across the country. These types of efforts look promising for the future!

The organizational success that we have had in 2001 and over the last five years, by seizing the moment when opportunities arise such as PHPA, are just a few examples of the success of "Investing in our Future." We will continue to invest in our future and with your support, build and strengthen OPEIU in fulfillment of our hopes, goals and dreams of 1995!



Printed in USA



Theme of the 1995 convention.