



# WHITE COLLAR

Work Connects Us All!

Fall/Winter 2013-2014 Issue

## Florida Nurses Affiliate with OPEIU

OPEIU has proven once again that it is a leader in the representation of registered nurses with the affiliation of the Florida Nurses Association and its Labor & Employment Relations Council, which represents more than 5,000 registered nurses and professional health care employees.

The Labor & Employment Relations Council (LERC) is the labor relations arm of the Florida Nurses Association (FNA), which is governed by the presidents of the various bargaining units represented by FNA – Wuesthoff Medical Center, University of Florida Health-Shands, Florida State University and the State of Florida Professional Health Care Unit.

“Professional nursing associations throughout the country are recognizing the strength that comes with affiliation with OPEIU and the labor movement,” said International President Michael Goodwin. “This partnership between OPEIU and FNA/LERC makes OPEIU an even more effective representative of the nursing profession and provides FNA with the ability to better serve its members through collective bargaining.



Officials from OPEIU and FNA celebrate the chartering of FNA/LERC as an OPEIU affiliate. The new group is now known as Local 713.

“The OPEIU Nurses Council, of which FNA/LERC is a member, promotes best practices regarding patient care, nurses’ personal safety concerns and staffing levels in the workplace, particularly as we navigate the changing health care system under the Affordable Care Act, to ensure that our members are able to provide the highest-quality care to their patients,” continued Goodwin.

*Continued on page 3*



### Celebrating the 26th OPEIU Convention

International President Michael Goodwin and Secretary-Treasurer Mary Mahoney are reelected for another three-year term at the 26th OPEIU Convention in June 2013. See page 10 for more convention coverage.

### Inside: OPEIU Is On An Organizing Roll!

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#### Important membership benefit information

- OPEIU Introduces Two New Life Insurance Benefits..... Pages 6-8
- New Towing/Service Calls Card Enclosed .....Special Insert



**New Towing  
Cards Enclosed!**

The government shutdown cost the U.S. economy upwards of \$6 billion.  
**Working families deserve better.**



# A Vision for Membership Benefits

By Michael Goodwin, International President

OPEIU was the first union to provide substantial membership benefits paid directly out of the union treasury. Of course, many unions have historically provided some membership benefits, but OPEIU initiated the idea of providing numerous benefits as a loyalty membership award and also as a means to attract new members. Organizing and growing the union is important if we wish to be part of a labor movement with increased power at the bargaining table and a stronger influence on how our government functions.

As I said, OPEIU initiated the concept of the union providing membership benefits, at no additional cost to members, which are in addition to the benefits negotiated through collective bargaining. OPEIU endorsed the idea by recommending the PerksCard as a national benefit at the 2007 Convention and the towing/service call benefit at the 2010 Convention.

At the 2013 Convention, the Executive Board recommended and the delegates approved two new benefits\* – a \$2,000 death benefit and a \$2,000 accidental death and dismemberment (AD&D) benefit, replacing the PerksCard as of October 1, 2013. Local Unions can decide to continue the PerksCard program for their members if they so wish.

The AFL-CIO, through its Union Privilege Program (“Union Plus”), provides access to a MasterCard through Capital One Bank and referrals to vendors who offer discounts to union members. These benefits are very beneficial to

union members, and OPEIU highly recommends that members take advantage of these great savings.

OPEIU’s vision is to provide numerous membership benefits using its collective membership power to reduce costs. Experience has taught us that many vendors are able to provide a product on a group basis at a cost as low as 10 cents on a dollar. That’s effective use of membership power!

In addition to providing members with great benefits at an affordable cost to the union, the membership benefit program also provides a useful tool in attracting new members into the union, particularly in right-to-work states and voluntary membership groups. Did you know that there are more than 2 million employees covered by collective bargaining agreements in right-to-work states who have not yet seen the wisdom of joining the union? Part of this is because of philosophy, but I believe the major reason is because the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) requires that all negotiated terms and conditions of

employment apply to all employees in a bargaining unit, whether or not they are members of the union. Unfortunately, too many employees take advantage of this loophole to avoid paying dues.

OPEIU believes that if the union can offer substantial membership benefits to members in a collective bargaining unit, however, then this will encourage the nonmembers to consider joining. In fact, a great example of this is in Las Vegas, Nevada, where the unions represent 5,000 taxi drivers in 10 companies but had only 831 members paying dues. After the introduction of a comprehensive membership benefit program, the 831 membership level grew exponentially to more than 3,000 – clear proof that the membership benefit program works.

The union’s greatest expectation is that more and more of the 2 million members in right-to-work states and voluntary membership groups recognize the advantages of membership benefits outside of the collective bargaining relationship, which can be accessed only by joining the union. What this would do is add bargaining power to the unions representing employees in right-to-work states, thereby improving their wages, hours and working conditions to a greater extent. It makes sense for OPEIU and all the unions to provide and/or increase membership benefits to the point where not joining the union is not a good option.

OPEIU’s vision is to continuously provide and increase membership benefits so that all of us can be stronger at the bargaining table!

#### \*EDITOR’S NOTE:

Your new \$2,000 life insurance and \$2,000 accidental death and dismemberment certificates are located on pages 7-8. Please remove these certificates and store them in a safe place. Also, inform your beneficiary where the certificates are located. You will also find your new towing/service calls card in the special insert in this issue.

Continued from cover

## Florida Nurses Affiliate with OPEIU

“This affiliation is a vote of confidence in OPEIU and its ability to best represent nursing professionals,” he said. “In addition to the OPEIU Nurses Council that comprises representatives from all our nursing Local Unions, we have elected two nurses to the OPEIU Executive Board. Thus, the needs of our nurse professionals are represented at the highest levels of the organization.”

The affiliation agreement maintains the organization’s autonomy and structure, and provides substantial resources for growth and development of the FNA/LERC membership. FNA/LERC

will continue its membership in the American Nurses Association (ANA).

“While affiliation was desirable in order to add protection to FNA/LERC’s existing bargaining units and to strengthen their position at the bargaining table, it was also very important to the FNA/LERC that it retain its autonomy,” said FNA/LERC’s Director of Professional Practice Advocacy and Labor Relations Jeanie Demshar, Esq. “Affiliating with OPEIU has provided us with invaluable resources and the professional guidance necessary to represent the nursing profession in Florida

while at the same time retaining our autonomy.”

“Sincere appreciation is given to FNA Executive Director Willa Fuller RN; FNA/LERC Director of Professional Practice Advocacy and Labor Relations Jeanie Demshar, Esq.; and FNA/LERC Labor Counsel Don Slesnick, who were instrumental in facilitating this affiliation,” said Goodwin.

The addition of the FNA/LERC brings the number of OPEIU nursing professionals to more than 11,000 members.

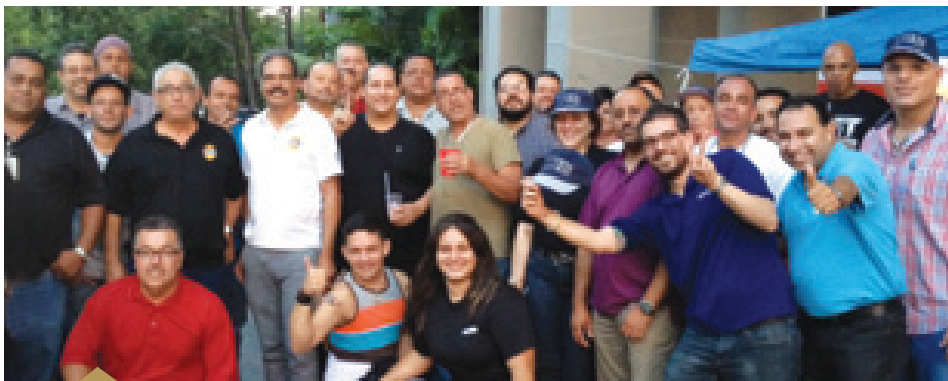
## Puerto Rican Telephone Workers Vote to Affiliate

The Independent Union of Telephone Workers (UIET), a 1,900-employee bargaining unit employed by Claro Puerto Rico telephone company, has affiliated with OPEIU.

“The 10-to-1 vote to affiliate demonstrates real confidence in OPEIU and its ability to strengthen the voice of these workers in collective bargaining,” said International President Michael Goodwin. “This affiliation is based on UIET and OPEIU’s common goal of improving the compensation and working conditions of members.

“UIET came to OPEIU following the company’s imposition of terms and conditions that reduced health care coverage,” Goodwin continued. “OPEIU will now help UIET reach an agreement with the company, improving conditions for all 1,900 employees.”

UIET will continue to exist as an autonomous labor organization, administering its own operations, but will be assisted by OPEIU in building the organization through organizing, collective bargaining, and legislative and public relations support. The UIET members will also be entitled to the OPEIU membership benefit program, including scholarship eligibility and the AFL-CIO’s Union Plus benefits.



UIET members celebrate the victory of an affiliation with OPEIU in front of the employer headquarters (Claro Puerto Rico telephone company), giving a message to the company that reaffirms their fight for a fair contract.

“UIET came to OPEIU following the company’s imposition of terms and conditions that reduced health care coverage,” Goodwin continued. “OPEIU will now help UIET reach an agreement with the company, improving conditions for all 1,900 employees.”

## 26th OPEIU Convention

Dear President Goodwin:

I wish to thank you for all the work, time and effort it took in planning my 100th birthday celebration. More important, thank you for all you have done for me throughout the years. The bond between us will never be broken and your kindness will never be forgotten.

I also want to thank the entire International staff for their kindness and thoughtfulness. They were most helpful in transitioning me safely to the various convention proceedings and outside activities. Furthermore, they went out of their way to make my family and me feel welcome and at ease. My children were very impressed by the well-organized activities and how smoothly all the events took place.

My gratitude cannot be expressed by mere words. I will cherish these memories forever.

I remain eternally grateful,

Charlie Ponti  
Local 153  
New York, New York

Dear President Goodwin:

Thank you for another outstanding convention. I believe we are stronger every three years. With your leadership and strong staff and speakers like Charlie Ponti, we will continue to grow.

I'm so proud to be an OPEIU officer and member, and feel very good about the union movement in the state of Missouri. We have managed to hold back the right-to-work [legislation] for now, but it could be on the ballot in 2014.

I will be walking in our Pride parade with my employer, UFCW, but will be wearing my OPEIU shirt. Thank you again for all you do, and please know I'm here to assist you "fight the fight."

In solidarity,

Shelle Veres  
Vice President  
Local 13  
Bridgeton, Missouri

Dear Brother Goodwin:

Thank you so much for the warm introduction and welcome to OPEIU's convention. It was such a refreshing lift to see so many A. Philip Randolph Institute (APRI) leaders and friends at the convention.

Thank you also for the generous contribution of \$15,000 for OPEIU's continuing support of the APRI. And I must let you know again how much we appreciate the work that our [OPEIU Vice President] Brother Green P. Lewis does in his role as a National Board Member of the Institute.

It is only through the goodwill of friends like you that we can accomplish the mission of APRI. Again, we thank you.

In unity,

Clayola Brown  
National President  
APRI  
Washington, D.C.

Dear President Goodwin:

Wow! Where to begin? I would like to take this opportunity to express my personal appreciation to you, Secretary-Treasurer Mahoney, the Executive Board, staff and other convention workers for an excellent convention. The OPEIU membership has much to be proud of in our leadership.

This was the sixth convention I attended, and each time I am overwhelmed with the display of professionalism and team spirit under your leadership. I am honored to be a small part of such a great organization and proud to be an officer and member of OPEIU!

Fraternally yours,

Sherry Patton  
President/Business Manager  
Local 129  
Lake Jackson, Texas

Dear President Goodwin:

Thank you for putting on an exceptional convention. We were very grateful to have been invited and to have been treated so well.

Best,

Steve Paine, OMD  
President  
National Guild of Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine/OPEIU  
Guild 62  
Simsbury, Connecticut

## Superstorm Sandy Assistance

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Thank you so very much for [Superstorm Sandy assistance]. It will be put to good use in rebuilding my home, which was damaged during Sandy!

Thank you,

Don Hull  
Local 32  
Little Egg Harbor, New Jersey

Dear OPEIU Family:

I would like to take this time out to thank you from the bottom of my heart for helping my family and me following Sandy. Every little bit helps, and what you did is well appreciated!

Thank you again!

Jaime Montagnino  
Local 153  
New York, New York

## Congrats on Las Vegas Strike Win

Dear President Goodwin, ITPEU President Arrington and Representative Jones:

My sincere congratulations to the Las Vegas Yellow-Checker-Star taxi drivers and to the leadership of OPEIU and ITPEU in their recent conclusion to a long strike, which resulted in a contract agreement providing a number of benefit increases to those taxi drivers.

This is by far evidence that through the solidarity of union members, they can achieve the dignity and respect they deserve for their labor. Congratulations!

In solidarity,

John F. Conley  
President Emeritus  
ITPEU/OPEIU Local 4873

## UFW Expresses Thanks for Support

Dear Mike:

Once again I want to extend our appreciation to you and the OPEIU Executive Board for taking the time to visit La Paz, the headquarters of the Farm Worker Movement. Your \$25,000 donation to the farm workers will help us continue working to obtain a new immigration process that will help not only hundreds of thousands of farm workers and their families, but the entire immigrant community.

Si se puede!

Arturo S. Rodriguez  
President  
United Farm Workers  
Keene, California

## Scholarship Appreciation

Dear Secretary-Treasurer Mary Mahoney and OPEIU:

I am writing to express my thankfulness for being chosen to receive the Howard Coughlin Memorial Scholarship. I am currently studying English and history at the University of Waterloo and am excited to use this award to further my studies, as it will cover my tuition costs for two full terms. Thank you again for your great generosity.

Sincerely,

Elisa Preater  
Daughter of Local 2007 Member



## New Towing/Service Calls Cards Issued

See Special Insert

At the 26th OPEIU Convention in June 2013, delegates approved the discontinuation of the PerksCard benefit due to low membership usage. While the towing program information remains the same, to avoid any confusion we are reissuing to all members a new towing card without the PerksCard information. You can find your new towing/service calls card in the special insert of this issue of White Collar.

## WHITE COLLAR

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

MICHAEL GOODWIN  
President

MARY MAHONEY  
Secretary-Treasurer



CALM  
ACPS

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# OPEIU Introduces Two New Membership Benefits!



Delegates to the 26th OPEIU Convention approved the introduction of two new membership benefits for all OPEIU members – a \$2,000 death benefit and a \$2,000 accidental death and dismemberment (AD&D) benefit. These new life insurance benefits are being provided at no additional cost to OPEIU members. **They are in addition to any life insurance and AD&D benefits currently offered.** Only active members are eligible for these benefits. Once retired, you are no longer eligible for these benefits.

Please find your death and AD&D certificates on pages 7 and 8. **They should be kept in a safe place with other important financial documents.**



*Your Local Union, Guild or Directly Affiliated Group will have a "Designation of Beneficiary" form available for you to complete to name your beneficiary.*

## OPEIU \$2,000 Death Benefit

**This is to certify** that all members in good standing of OPEIU with twelve (12) or more consecutive months of membership shall be covered for a two-thousand-dollar (\$2,000) death benefit payable by OPEIU. A member's good standing and eligibility for this two-thousand-dollar (\$2,000) death benefit is forfeited if the member is more than two (2) months in arrears in dues during the fourteen-month (14-month) period prior to death, exclusive of the month of death.

*A member who is not on the active payroll due to leave, disability or other similar circumstances remains eligible only if the member keeps his/her dues payment current. Therefore, a member must continue to pay dues directly to his/her Local Union, Guild or Directly Affiliated Group during these periods if he/she wishes to remain eligible for this benefit.*

**Only active members are eligible for this benefit.  
Once retired, a member is no longer eligible for this benefit.**

**All death benefit claims will be paid by Amalgamated Life Insurance Company (ALICO) in accordance with rules promulgated by OPEIU.**



**Michael Goodwin**  
OPEIU International President



**Mary Mahoney**  
OPEIU Secretary-Treasurer

opeiu:153  
afl-cio



## OPEIU \$2,000 Accidental Death and Dismemberment Benefit

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**Michael Goodwin**

OPEIU International President



**Mary Mahoney**

OPEIU Secretary-Treasurer



opeiu:153  
afl-cio



# OPEIU Backs Winners

## Support Brings McAuliffe Victory in Virginia



Pictured left to right are (back row) International Organizer Cesar Mendia, Local 4873 Representative Wilma Zimmerman, Local 2 member Francis Thompson, Northern Virginia Central Labor Council President Dan Duncan, (front row) Local 4873 Representative Denise Moore, Local 153 Representative Seth Goldstein, Local 2 members Caniesha Washington and Chelsea Bland, and Local 334 member and Virginia State AFL-CIO Communication Director Julie Hunter. Not pictured are International Representatives Mario Seneca, Green Lewis III, Mike Davis, Paul Bohelski and many volunteers from Local 2.



Democratic candidate Terry McAuliffe won a key gubernatorial race in Virginia, thanks in part to the support of unions like OPEIU. International President Michael Goodwin, pictured with McAuliffe on election night, sent a team composed of International

representatives and organizers to join forces with Local 2 members and ITPEU/OPEIU Local 4873 representatives to lead a grassroots campaign to get out the vote for McAuliffe in Virginia.

## Putting Working Families First in NYC



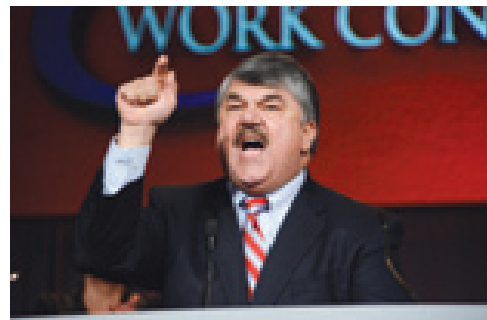
Secretary-Treasurer Mary Mahoney (center) and Director of Organization and Field Services Kevin Kistler (second from left) attend a fundraiser in support of then-New York City mayoral candidate Bill DeBlasio, hosted by former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. DeBlasio went on to win the NYC mayoral election in a landslide, capturing 73.3 percent of the vote, by emphasizing a progressive agenda that puts working families first. Also pictured is Mayor DeBlasio's wife, Chirlane McCray.



Top: Hawai'i Governor Neil Abercrombie.

Top right: AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka.

Bottom right: UFW President Arturo Rodriguez and International President Michael Goodwin.



## Trumka, Abercrombie and Rodriguez Among Special Guests at 2013 Convention

Delegates from throughout the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico gathered in San Diego, California, June 3-6, 2013, for the 26th OPEIU Convention to hear from a number of interesting speakers, as well as to consider policies that will chart the direction of the union for the next three years.

Delegates also reelected International President Michael Goodwin and Secretary-Treasurer Mary Mahoney and chose 17 Vice Presidents.

Hawai'i governor and friend of OPEIU Neil Abercrombie told delegates about the importance of political involvement and the pursuit of the American dream. "OPEIU is right there in the forefront," said Governor Abercrombie. "I'm proud to be with you." Speaking about Washington gridlock and voter

frustration, an animated Governor Abercrombie said, "I've been in 34 elections and I've learned one thing – every vote counts!" To great applause, he went on, directly addressing delegates: "You represent a constituency just like I do, representing people who want a better life for themselves. You've got to elect people who will get things done!"

AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka, in a powerful speech about both the opportunities and the many challenges facing America's organized

labor movement, told convention delegates, "It's time for us to stop wishing the world were different. It's time to make it different."

Trumka tackled the issues facing OPEIU and the labor movement head-on. "America's working people need a strong labor movement," said Trumka. "Union density in the private sector is less than 7 percent...and the attacks on us just keep coming. We're faced with a choice. We're either going to make excuses, point the finger of blame, or we're going to take the responsibility on ourselves to do something about it."

Entering to a standing ovation and leading a flag processional, United Farm Workers (UFW) President Arturo Rodriguez beamed as he made his way to the convention stage. "There's been a long history between our two unions, and OPEIU has always been there for us," he said. President Goodwin then presented an OPEIU contribution of \$25,000 in support of UFW's efforts to improve the lives of America's farm workers. They were joined on stage by other OPEIU Local Union leaders who personally presented their own contributions to UFW.

# Officers Elected at the 26th OPEIU Convention

Officers elected at the 26th OPEIU Convention are sworn in by Secretary-Treasurer Emerita Nancy Wohlforth.



## Vice Presidents

### Walter Allen Jr.

Executive Director/  
Chief Financial Officer  
Local 30, Region V

### Dennis R. Arrington

President  
ITPEU/OPEIU Local 4873, Region III

### Greg Blackman

President  
Local 100, Region III

### Joan Craft

President  
HNA/OPEIU Local 50, Region V

### Dan Dyer

President  
Local 2, Region II

### Richard Lanigan

Secretary-Treasurer  
Local 153, Region II

### Green P. Lewis Jr.

Local 204, Region III

### John Mattiacci, DPM

President  
Podiatrists Guild 45, Region II

### Suzanne Mode

Business Manager  
Local 8, Region VI

### Darshan Nair

President  
Local 103, Region I

### Christine Page

Business Representative  
Local 174, Region V

### Patricia Priloh

President  
Local 457, Region II

### Tamara Rubyn

President/Business Manager  
Local 29, Region V

### Aaron Sanders

President  
Local 512, Region VII

### Mary Short

President  
Local 32, Region II

### Sharon Taylor

President  
Local 459, Region VII

### Becky Turner

President/Business Manager  
Local 277, Region IV

## Awards Given for Outstanding Service

Several individuals and Local Unions were recognized for outstanding efforts in the areas of organizing and political action. The 2013 J.B. Moss Voice of the Electorate (VOTE) Fund Awards were given as follows: Memorial Award, Local 8, Seattle Washington; Gold Award, ITPEU/OPEIU Local 4873, Savannah, Georgia; Silver Award, Local 30, San Diego, California; and Bronze Award, Local 6, Boston, Massachusetts.

The 2012 Henderson B. Douglas Memorial Award for organizing was given to Jay Minor and Yvon Collin, Directly Affiliated Group 403 (Global

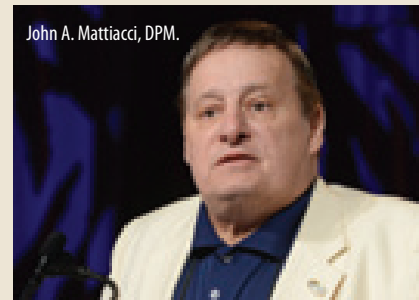
Helicopter Engineers Association), Vancouver, British Columbia. Other organizing awards were presented to Senior International Representative Jeff Rusich, who received the Gold Organizing Award; Local 2 in Washington, D.C., the Silver Organizing Award; and ITPEU/OPEIU Local 4873, and Scott Davidson, DAG 110 (Cougar Helicopters), Bronze Organizing Awards.

A special recognition award was also given to OPEIU Nurses Council (ONC) Chair Paige Yates RN, Vice Chair Joan Craft RN and Secretary-Treasurer Dina Carlisle RN for their work in forming and leading the ONC.



OPEIU Nurses Council Chair Paige Yates RN (center), Vice Chair Joan Craft RN (left), and Secretary-Treasurer Dina Carlisle RN.

## Guild 45's Mattiacci Tells Why Podiatrists Joined OPEIU



International Vice President and Guild 45 President John A. Mattiacci, DPM, told delegates in a rousing speech of the importance of OPEIU and America's labor movement to the future of podiatrists and all medical professionals.

"Our Guild was the first national movement of professionals to band together through our professional associations and become a local of national jurisdiction of OPEIU," said Dr. Mattiacci, adding that podiatrists explored a nontraditional approach to take advantage of the strength that the labor movement offers by becoming the first national union of health care professionals in history.

“ This is our future,” he continued. “We can show [other professional groups] what our union, OPEIU, has done for a small specialty, moving legislatures and standing up to giant insurance interests. The strength of labor is the only interest in the nation that will allow us to do that.”

# OPEIU's Longest-Serving Member Says, "You Gotta Fight!"

Convention delegates honored 100-year-old member Charles Ponti Sr., a 76-year OPEIU member of Local 153 in New York, New York, and sat in awe as he delivered a feisty speech about organizing and his union experiences that date back to 1937.

"I like to tell organizers, if you do not fight, you're no organizer," said Ponti. With humor and an indomitable spirit, Ponti pointed out, "As a person, you can't do anything. But when you organize, you can do anything."



Ponti family with International President Michael Goodwin.



International President Michael Goodwin (far right) presents Theresa Kandt and John F. Conley with rocking chairs in celebration of their retirement as OPEIU Vice Presidents.

## OPEIU Recognizes Service of Retiring Vice Presidents

In appreciation for loyal and dedicated service to the members of OPEIU, it was with great pleasure that OPEIU bestowed the title of Vice President Emerita to Theresa Kandt, the former Secretary-Treasurer of Local 42, and Vice President Emeritus to John F. Conley, who served as President of ITPEU/OPEIU Local 4873 until his retirement in December 2012.

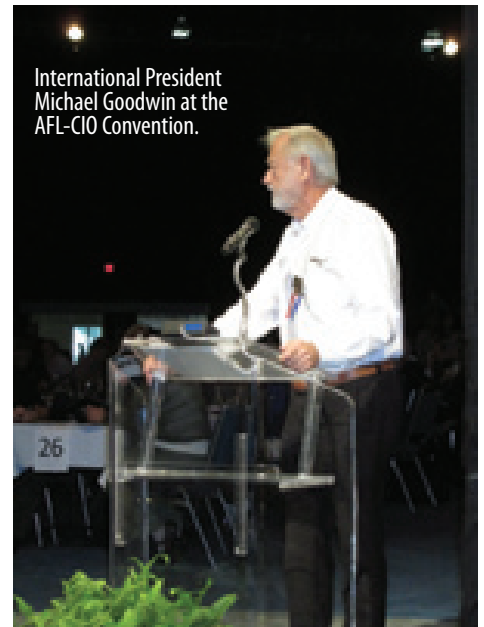
## Goodwin Stands to Support American Labor Museum

At the AFL-CIO Convention held September 8-11, 2013, in Los Angeles, California, International President Michael Goodwin stood in support of an AFL-CIO Convention Resolution about the American Labor Museum of Haledon, New Jersey, saying the museum was established in 1983 to teach children and the public about the labor movement's rich history. "Kids today don't know the history and the struggles of the labor movement, and that's why OPEIU supports the AFL-CIO program on youth development, which includes education provided by the

American Labor Museum and asks that other unions also lend their support.

"We must educate our children about past labor and immigration struggles and how immigrants arrived here to seek a better life," continued Goodwin, noting that the museum's exhibits honor these workers' contributions. The resolution was passed unanimously by convention delegates.

Goodwin was also proud to serve as co-chair of the AFL-CIO Rules Committee at the convention.



International President Michael Goodwin at the AFL-CIO Convention.

## OPEIU Rising Stars Gather at AFL-CIO Convention

More than 30 OPEIU Rising Stars members from throughout the country traveled to Los Angeles, California, to participate in the Next Up youth program before the AFL-CIO Convention on September 7, 2013. With the most participants of any union, once again OPEIU proved it is leading the effort within the AFL-CIO!

The OPEIU Rising Stars bus served as transportation for all Next Up events. OPEIU and other AFL-CIO union young members joined several labor actions in Los Angeles and showed they truly are the future of the American labor

movement. Rising Stars Chair Tim Sullivan of OPEIU Local 6 led the activities and gave a rousing speech to get everyone excited and involved.

OPEIU was also recognized at the convention as a leader in the AFL-CIO's youth movement. Local 32's Business Representative Karevin "KB" Barnes was recognized by AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka during his keynote address to the convention as the kind of young leader that will best represent the labor movement in the coming years. Way to go, KB, and thanks to all the Rising Stars members who took the time to participate!



OPEIU Rising Stars members ages 35 and under gather in Los Angeles, California, for the AFL-CIO Convention Next Up program. They are pictured in front of the OPEIU Rising Stars bus and spent the day participating in several labor actions.

## VP Lanigan Leads Resolutions Committee at Maritime Trades Convention

International Vice President and Local 153 Secretary-Treasurer Richard Lanigan was appointed chair of the Resolutions Committee at the Maritime Trades Department's Convention, held a few days before the AFL-CIO Convention. OPEIU is a member of the Maritime Trades Department, a constitutionally mandated department of the AFL-CIO.



# The Most Urgent Fact Jolie Left Out (Part I)

By Jane McElevey



Recently, I lost my too-young-to-die sister to a BRCA1 breast cancer. When I was a toddler not yet in kindergarten, breast cancer robbed me of my mother. I am a BRCA1 gene carrier and recently wrote about it in my memoir, “Raising Expectations and Raising Hell.” Neither my sister’s nor my mother’s premature death nor my own writing could possibly have turned BRCA1 (and BRCA2) into a household conversation the way a beautiful movie star could. Like millions of women, I read the praise, the misogynist “jokes” and the criticism lobbed at Angelina Jolie.

The most urgent fact she left out of her op-ed in The New York Times, and that has received scant attention in the days since, is absolutely crucial: Seventy percent of the BRCA1 gene mutation breast cancers result in the most aggressive, least treatable form of breast cancer called the “triple negative,” a variation that resembles ovarian more than breast cancer genetically and that does not respond to any of the three main forms of treatment common among other breast cancers. The population next most likely to get triple negative breast cancer, after BRCA carriers, is African-American women.

According to Peggy Orenstein’s recent The New York Times Magazine cover story on the limits of the pink-fuzzy-teddy-bear breast cancer awareness movement, “Mammograms, it turns out, are not so great at detecting the most lethal forms of disease – like triple negative – at a treatable phase. Aggressive tumors progress too quickly, often cropping up between mammograms. Even catching them ‘early,’ while they are still small, can be too late: They have already metastasized.”

“ Like millions of women, I read the praise, the misogynist ‘jokes’ and the criticism lobbed at Angelina Jolie.”

It’s safe to say that I am alive today because, after my sister was diagnosed with breast cancer, she had the gene test done. The fact that she’s now dead and I am alive leads to a very particular kind of grieving, one that mixes guilt into an already heavy stew of sadness and sorrow. Had she gotten the same directives I did, would she still be alive? I am sharing my story and celebrating Jolie’s brave if incomplete op-ed because my sister got different directives. As many have pointed out, Jolie, with more money than a small nation at her disposal, had access to the finest health care. I also had access to the finest health care, and mine came from my union.

Yes, that’s right: You get world-class health care in America if you are a movie star or if you belong to a union. Unfortunately, the odds in the U.S. that a woman can overcome the anti-union, anti-collective bargaining crusade and actually succeed at forming a union in order to get good health care are about

the same as the odds of becoming a top movie star. Restoring the right to collective bargaining would go a long way toward many more women getting access to the care I got.

Because it was 2009 and pre-Obamacare, I was forced to pay for the gene test out of pocket, because if I attempted to use insurance and the test was positive, the insurance company could legally have dropped my coverage. And even though it’s criminal that Myriad Genetics and Laboratories has patented my gene (I’d happily give a dose of it to any open-source company that wants it and dare Myriad to put me in jail), another fact omitted from the recent news is that once a single person in the family has the test at the too-expensive price, if she’s positive, the cost of the gene test for other family members drops to about \$200. When they called me in to tell me I had the BRCA1 gene, I didn’t quite understand I had entered what Barbara Ehrenreich so brilliantly described in Harpers in 2001 and in her book, “Bright-Sided”, as ‘Cancerland.’

“ Because it was 2009 and pre-Obamacare, I was forced to pay for the gene test out of pocket, because if I attempted to use insurance and the test was positive, the insurance company could legally have dropped my coverage.”

Because my mom died young of breast cancer, I read every article about it that I could get my hands on from a very early age. I had been taking all known precautions to avoid breast cancer: I didn’t eat red meat – or any meat – from my early teens onward; consumed only organic, hormone-free

dairy products; used every form of birth control ever invented except birth control pills; had a diet rich in pesticide-free vegetables; and did a lot of physically demanding sports. I had my baseline mammogram at 28, the age recommended given my family history, and mammograms every year thereafter, thanks to Planned Parenthood. This might have helped me avoid some other forms of breast cancer, but not the one commonly linked to the BRCA1 gene.

With my own BRCA1 reality confirmed, I settled on a medical team and began my work. When one of the first recommendations made was that I have a bilateral mastectomy, I thought this was an overreaction by a profit-oriented, procedure-driven health care system. My deep objections to the U.S.-based health care industry were getting in the way of my ability to listen to

my doctors or learn about what the BRCA1 gene mutation implied. I insisted that enrolling in an intensive breast-screening program was a better option.

As each day passed in my new-normal world of being a BRCA1 gene carrier, the picture got a bit more complicated. The high screening program I hoped for was to include quarterly needle biopsies. 'Fine,' I thought. 'I don't mind needles. I am a tomboy!' Then, early on in the diagnostic work, my new mammograms showed lumps. They put me through a needle biopsy – I tired quickly of the idea of those needles (they are big – bigger than, say, a blood draw needle). Beyond having oversized needles shoved into my breasts every few months, effectively turning them into a science project, other women were telling me about the agony of

waiting for the results each time they got tested: Tick, tick, tick, when's this death bomb going to explode?

*In Part II of this article, McEvevey faces a number of important health care decisions. What would a diagnosis of BRCA1 mean for her future? And how does this gene affect other women and our nation's health care system? Read Part II of McEvevey's story in the next issue of White Collar.*

*Jane McEvevey is a union and community organizer, educator, and author who was among the speakers at the 2007 OPEIU Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada. She is the executive director of SEIU Local 707 in Nevada. She is the author of the book "Raising Expectations and Raising Hell: My Decade Fighting for the Labor Movement!"*



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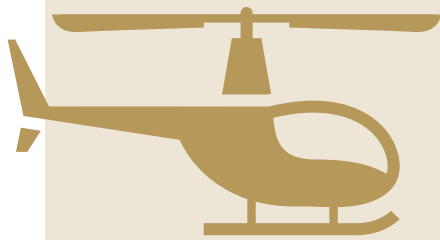
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## OPEIU Adds Another Helicopter Engineers Bargaining Unit

OPEIU has won a Canadian Industrial Relations Board (CIRB) election for another helicopter engineers bargaining unit of 199 that includes aviation and mechanical engineers at Heli-One.



“Congratulations to all involved, including Director of Organization and Field Services Kevin Kistler and International Representatives Jeff Rusich and Paul Huertas for their work in making this election success possible,” said International President Michael Goodwin. “OPEIU’s reach in the world of helicopter pilots and engineers continues to expand in the United States and Canada.”

## New Contract at Henderson Taxi in Las Vegas

Members of the Industrial, Technical and Professional Employees Union (ITPEU)/OPEIU Local 4873 have ratified a new contract at Henderson Taxi in Las Vegas, Nevada, that means additional 10-hour shifts instead of the traditional 12 hours in the industry, and much improved contract language for the 365 employees, 149 of whom are members. The contract was ratified by 98 percent of those voting.

Among other highlights of the contract are the assignment of shifts for special events in reverse seniority order, an additional four unexcused sick days, improved health care provisions and improved runout protection on fares. The new contract also ensures there will be union orientation for new drivers, according to International Representative Paul Huertas.

## Local 107’s Don Robson Appointed Chief Pilot for Bristow U.S.

Captain Don Robson, a loyal member and staunch advocate for OPEIU since the organizing campaign at Bristow U.S. in 1994, has been appointed chief pilot for the company. Bristow U.S. is a helicopter services company that, prior to 2010, operated as Air Logistics in North America.

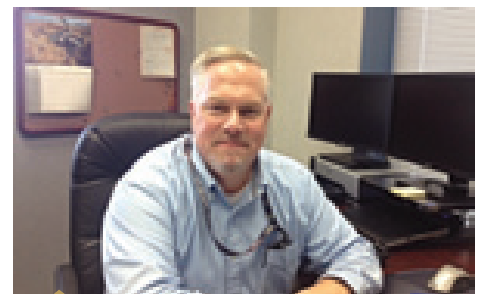
“Following training at the George Meany Labor Studies College, Don served as a member of the second contract negotiating team, where his hard work and devotion to duty helped achieve an industry-leading and precedent-setting collective bargaining agreement,” said Local 107 President Pete Catalano.

Captain Robson then assumed responsibility for welcoming new pilots to Bristow by giving the introductory orientation, while at the same time introducing them to Local 107 and collecting a union card from every single pilot.

“The members of Local 107 owe a debt of gratitude to Don for his loyalty to them and Local 107,” said Catalano.

“While Don’s new position will put him on the management side of the table, nonetheless it is a credit to his ability and an indication of the strong working relationship Local 107 has built with Bristow management, a relationship that Don has done so much to foster,” he continued.

Congratulations, Captain Robson, and best of luck in your new position.



Captain Don Robson.



### Clinical Social Work/ Guild 49 Wins Big!

The New Jersey Appellate Division has decided in favor of clinical social workers by reversing the School Employees Health Benefits Plan's (SEHBP) reduction to out-of-network reimbursement rates. Without notice, Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield had reduced rates by 35 percent, according to Clinical Social Work/Guild 49 Director of Legislative Affairs Luba Shagawat, LCSW, F-NAP.

The court found that the statute at issue does not authorize Horizon to change the fee structure and impose a percentage rate not permitted by the statute. While Guild 49 takes the position that all LCSWs should be reimbursed from the time of the appeal to present, the effect of this decision appears to be prospective and will affect the reimbursement rate for all LCSWs going forward.

“ I’d like to thank International President Michael Goodwin for his support, as well as our attorney, who represented our group in a professional, brilliant manner, and whose dedication and commitment to social justice made certain we prevailed,” said Shagawat.

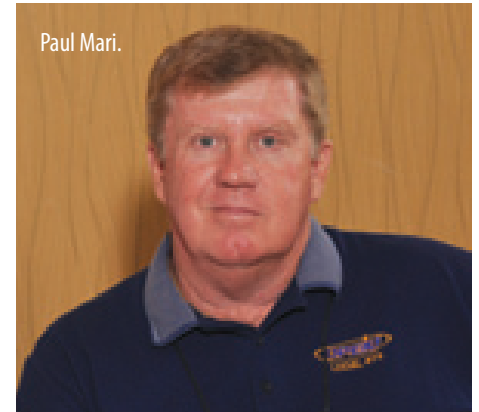
## OPEIU Mourns Loss of Local 73 President Paul Mari

OPEIU mourns the passing of Local 73 President Paul Richard Mari, who died suddenly on October 24, 2013.

Mari, who served on the OPEIU Executive Board from June 1988 to June 1992, was a native and lifelong resident of Jacksonville, Florida, and had worked for Horizon Lines, a domestic ocean shipping company, for 45 years.

He was a loving husband to his wife of 42 years, Brenda, and father to daughters Tina Voisin and Paula Mari and grandchildren Zachary, Mackenzie and Brenna. He was a dedicated OPEIU

leader who spent many years leading Local 73 and will be greatly missed by all who knew him.



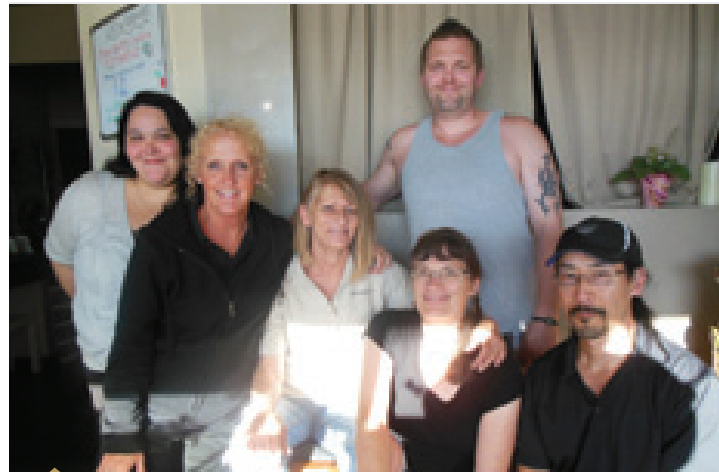
Paul Mari.

## Massage Bar Employees Vote to Join Local 8

Licensed massage practitioners at the Seattle-based Massage Bar, Inc., have voted by an overwhelming margin to join Local 8, according to Organizing Director/Secretary-Treasurer Cynthia Schu.

“We’re proud of our profession, and forming a union will help us gain more recognition,” said Tonya Zarlengo, an eight-year employee and member of the Organizing Committee. Earlier this year, employees at the Sacramento branch voted to join Local 29.

Employees contacted Local 8 for help addressing a cutback in shift hours, seemingly to avoid future requirements of the Affordable Care Act. “We lack the basic benefits many health professionals enjoy, like access to



The Massage Bar Organizing Committee is composed of (left to right) massage therapists Shalane Kelly, Kate McCartney, Simone Vigil, Rand Orser, Tonya Zarlengo and Tom Tanouye. Not pictured are Christel Arant, Heather Parent and Katy Staton.

affordable health care or paid sick leave,” said Tom Tanouye, a 17-year employee. “We hope to work in partnership with management to make improvements that will benefit employees and the company.” Heather Parent, a newer employee, observed, “This is really groundbreaking for our industry.” Employees hope to start contract negotiations shortly.



## GSAF Celebrates 20th Anniversary

International President Michael Goodwin visited Local 100 in Miami, Florida, to help celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Government Supervisors Association of Florida (GSAF), a former independent union that affiliated with Local 100 in 1993. GSAF represents supervisory and professional employees in Miami-Dade and Broward counties in Florida.

President Goodwin presented International Vice President and Local 100 President Greg Blackman with a framed resolution that congratulated them on the historic affiliation and recognized how much Local 100 has grown the organization over the past



20 years, organizing employees internally in Miami-Dade and Broward counties and in the cities of Miami Beach, Naples and Port St. Lucie.

Pictured are (left to right) OPEIU Director of Organization and Field Services Kevin Kistler, Blackman and Goodwin at the anniversary celebration.

## Local 32 Makes Training a Top Priority



Local 32 Business Representative Karevin "KB" Barnes and member Yalonda Brewer, who is an AFT staff representative, recently completed a training program presented in partnership with the Rutgers School of Management and Labor Relations and the New Jersey Public Employees Relations Commission (PERC). Pictured with International Vice President and Local 32 President Mary Short (center), Barnes and Brewer receive their Public Sector Labor Relations Certificates from the program.



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\*\*Union members can purchase the 3G and 3Gs iPhone at regular price and receive the 15% AT&T Wireless Union Plus discount off the AT&T wireless service plan. **NOTE:** There will be no discount for service using the original iPhone.

**UnionPlus.org/ATT**



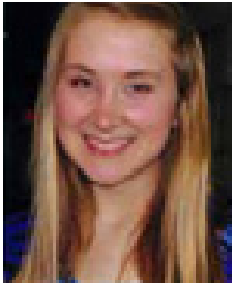
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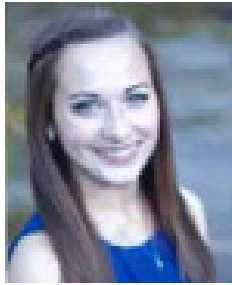
# 2013 Howard Coughlin Memorial Scholarship Winners



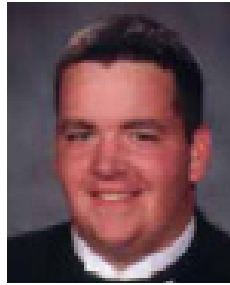
## Full-Time Winners



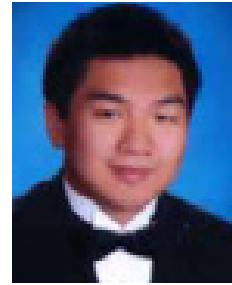
**Elisa Preater**  
Local 2007  
Region I



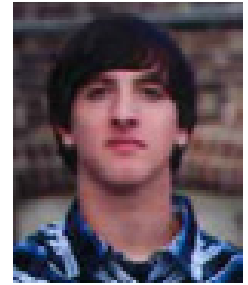
**Meaghan Wood**  
Local 153  
Region II



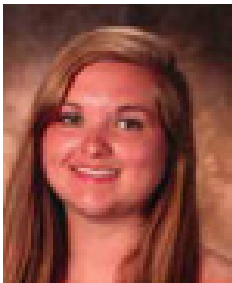
**Tyler Sloan**  
Local 32  
Region II



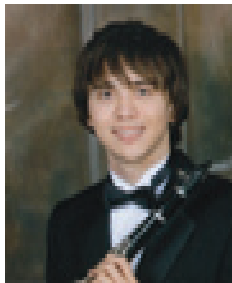
**Nam Phuong**  
ITPEU/OPEIU Local 4873  
Region III



**Tyler New-Boster**  
Local 182  
Region III



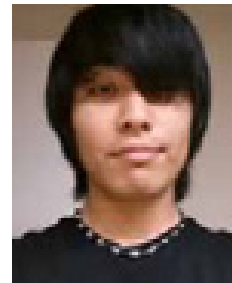
**Cheyenne Kelley**  
Local 277  
Region IV



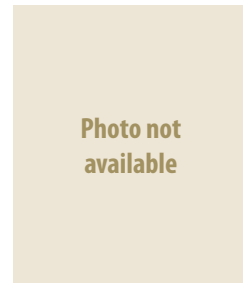
**Christopher Dlouhy**  
Local 129  
Region IV



**Daniel Ouk**  
Local 30  
Region V



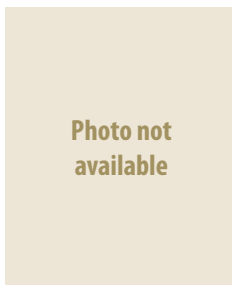
**Lexiz Padilla**  
Local 30  
Region V



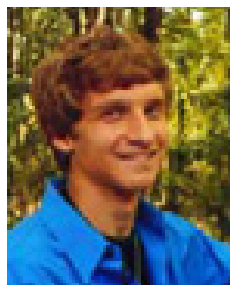
**Nathan Davis**  
Local 8  
Region VI



**Cassandra Aguilar**  
Local 8  
Region VI

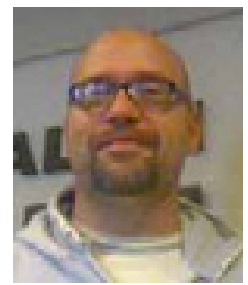


**Bryon Cripps**  
Local 2002  
Region VII



**Derek Garski**  
Local 95  
Region VII

## Part-Time Winner



**Samuel Dunbar**  
Local 459  
Region VII

Secretary-Treasurer Emerita Nancy Wohlforth.



## Viewpoints: Unions Are Key on Struggle for LGBT Equality

By Nancy Wohlforth and Hans Johnson

Call it the parting of the blue curtain. In just the past two decades, labor unions have gone from inhospitable places for lesbians, gays, bisexual and transgender people to welcoming spaces. They've gone from institutional bystanders in most major fights over gay rights to outspoken advocates.

The vast change shows the handiwork of hundreds of openly gay rank-and-file members. Some have won elections as local and national union officers. Each year tens of thousands of unionists will march in pride parades that feature a union presence.

Long a hallmark of Democratic campaigns, labor's muscle flexed this spring in legislative victories for marriage in Rhode Island and Minnesota. State union federations lobbied for both bills and celebrated their signing.

This gay-union alliance first emerged in California in the 1970s, deepened during the AIDS crisis, and won the first domestic partnership protections for workers in public-sector contracts and local ordinances in the Bay Area in the 1980s, and in the private sector, domestic partnership health care and pension coverage was also negotiated as early as 1981 by OPEIU. It could now determine how many more states follow suit on marriage equality over the next decade.

Why does labor matter to LGBT rights? Labor has played a role in organizing opposition to anti-gay marriage initiatives. The AFL-CIO submitted an amicus brief in the Proposition 8 fight before the Supreme Court as well as in the

Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), which prohibited same-sex couples from receiving more than 1,300 benefits afforded to married opposite-sex couples. The Supreme Court's rulings striking down DOMA and Proposition 8 open the door for full legal recognition for same-sex couples who live in states with marriage equality.

But the scope of that ruling is likely to be limited to California only. A separate ruling, possibly striking down at least part of DOMA, could put the focus on the remaining states. They would become battlegrounds for winning rights through marriage that would finally have force under federal law.

Making the patchwork of state marriage laws into a nationwide blanket could prove a herculean task. Coalition politics will be crucial, even as legal challenges remain one tool. The AFL-CIO filed a pro-equality amicus brief in both the California and DOMA cases. And Pride at Work, the LGBT labor network, was lead plaintiff in a case challenging a ban on marriage passed by Michigan voters in 2004.

The harsh anti-labor turn by that state's legislature and governor in passing a law to weaken unions highlights the difficulty facing marriage advocates in advancing

beyond current footholds. Even some states with a history of liberal lawmakers responsive to grassroots pressure could require multiyear efforts.

Marriage, of course, is not the sole priority for the LGBT movement or gay labor activists. The Communications Workers of America has approved a wide-ranging vindication of the rights of transgender people, a minority within a minority that, in the words of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, faces injustice at every turn.

This resolution, like a similar one approved by the OPEIU, supports local, state and federal laws specifically protecting transgender people from adverse treatment by employers, landlords, business owners and health care providers. The particular plight of transgender people in homeless shelters, jails and detention centers has shined a spotlight on the urgency of training and resources to provide more humane and effective services.

Another riveting fight for LGBT labor activists has been the quest for comprehensive immigration reform. A generation of young activists of all sexualities, led by Californians, has mimicked the metaphors of the gay rights movement.

By coming out of the closet as undocumented and describing their actual and aspirational contributions

to our society after having been brought here illegally as kids, the activists have embedded the cause of DREAMers at the core of the debate about a path to citizenship for more than 11 million people.

A recent maneuver in the Senate could end up excluding thousands of same-sex couples where one spouse cannot gain U.S. citizenship from the scope of the law.

Still, a bill that rewards the DREAMers' struggle will rank as an achievement of LGBT-labor solidarity.

Gay people within labor have come a very long way since the days of Harry Hay, the California radical who applied his union organizing experience to form the Mattachine Society in the 1950s and fight police abuse in Los Angeles.

Activists such as Bill Olwell, a late leader in the retail and food workers union who informed then-President Jimmy Carter's secretary that the spouse he intended to bring to a White House dinner was male, helped pave the way to today. Union presidents in the building

trades have presided over same-sex weddings. Mary Kay Henry, a longtime Californian and president of the Service Employees International Union, and Randi Weingarten, who heads the American Federation of Teachers, are both open lesbians directing vibrant organizations with great political sway.

The stereotype of unions as a bastion of intolerance or of unionists as Archie Bunkers allergic to diversity is one we have buried. Driving this change has been labor's full embrace of its LGBT brothers and sisters because of the hard work of Pride at Work.

The challenge before us now is marshaling the clout of our grassroots support bases to overcome resistance to our mutual goals at the state level. Doing so will give solidarity a whole new ring.

*Nancy Wohlforth is OPEIU secretary-treasurer emerita and a member of the AFL-CIO Executive Council, the first openly LGBT person to serve at both of these levels in the labor movement. Hans Johnson, based in Los Angeles, is president of Progressive Victory and a columnist on politics.*

*Updated from an article that originally appeared in the Sacramento Bee, June 15, 2013.*

## 50th Anniversary March on Washington for Jobs and Justice



OPEIU members from throughout the country, including from Local 153 in New York, Local 32 in New Jersey and Local 4873 in Georgia, traveled and joined Local 2 members in Washington, D.C., on August 24, 2013, for the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington. Pictured are International Vice President and Local 153 Secretary-Treasurer Richard Lanigan and Local 153 members at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial.

## Mattiacci Recognized by Pennsylvania Podiatrists



International Vice President and Guild 45 Podiatry President John A. Mattiacci, DPM, is recognized on November 9, 2013, by the Pennsylvania Podiatric Medical Association's House of Delegates with its Award of Excellence for advancing the interests of podiatrists in the state and nationwide. Mattiacci (left) is pictured with International President Michael Goodwin at the annual event.



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## The 2013 Government Shutdown ... A Great Idea?

### REPUBLICAN DEMANDS

THEY ASKED FOR...



THEY GOT... **NOTHING**

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- ✓ Delay Obamacare
- ✓ Delay Individual Mandate
- ✓ Deny Coverage to the President
- ✓ Deny Coverage to the Cabinet
- ✓ Deny Coverage to Congressional Staffers
- ✓ Deny Birth Control Coverage
- ✓ Approve Keystone Pipeline
- ✓ Means-Testing for Medicare
- ✓ Change Federal Employee Pensions
- ✓ Expand Oil Drilling
- ✓ Block Net Neutrality
- ✓ Tort Reform
- ✓ Weaken Regulations for Coal-fired Power Plants
- ✓ Change Tax Code
- ✓ Thwart EPA Coal-ash Regulations
- ✓ Repeal Medical Device Tax
- ✓ Change Rules on Debt Ceiling

Source: *The Rachel Maddow Show*



The government shutdown cost the U.S. economy upwards of \$6 billion.  
**Working families deserve better.**