

# PRESS ASSOCIATES UNION NEWS SERVICE

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Friday, October 16, 2009

## LEADING STORIES INSIDE...

- ++ \* Unions oppose Senate Finance panel's health care bill
- + \* Union-backed coalition steps up financial reform push as lawmakers tackle the issue
- + \* Medical study: Almost 45,000 die every year due to no insurance
- + \* Service Employees join new push for immigration reform
- ++ \* Institute honors battlers for workers in U.S., El Salvador
- + \* Minn. nurses march on State Capitol, demand governor restore medical aid
- + \* OPEIU names leading African-American unionist to VP post, board
- + \* Maine nurses canvass for health care reform

## ALSO INSIDE...

- + \* Washington Window: Insurance companies defend their right to kill
- + \* Op-Ed: A second Great Depression is still possible

EDITORS: '+' indicates relevant photo, cartoon, chart or graphic.

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2009-259 -- ALLEN BYRON, a leading African-American unionist, was named a vice president and board member by the Office and Professional Employees, continuing labor's commitment to diversity in its leadership. Photo courtesy OPEIU via PAI Photo Service. See Byron story.

OPEIU NAMES LEADING AFRICAN-AMERICAN UNIONIST TO VP POST, BOARD

UNION, N.J. (PAI)--Continuing the labor movement's commitment to increased diversity among its leaders, the Office and Professional Employees named top African-American unionist Allen Byron as a vice president, on Oct.13.

Byron will represent the union's Region II on the OPEIU Executive Board, is Secretary-Treasurer/Business Manager of Local 32 in Union, N.J.

"Allen has been a dedicated union leader for years, and his life's mission has been to better the lives of working families in New Jersey," union President Michael Goodwin commented. "His experience working at Local 32, defending members and negotiating higher pay and benefits, makes him perfect to represent Region II."

Byron started his union career 30 years ago, with Service Employees Local 617, as a member of its bargaining committee while serving as a senior computer operator at the Newark Housing Authority. After being promoted to supervising computer operator, he joined Local 32 and became president of the NHA Association, a full-time union rep and chief shop steward.

When he retired from NHA four years ago, Byron became a Local 32 business rep and ascended to his present local union post a year later. He is also vice president of the New Jersey State AFL-CIO. ###