



WHITE COLLAR

OFFICE AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION, AFL-CIO, CLC

No. 514

Issue 3, Fall 2011

Allstate Agent Group Votes to Affiliate with OPEIU

The members of the National Association of Professional Allstate Agents (NAPAA) voted overwhelmingly to affiliate with OPEIU as of September 1, 2011. The 1,200 new members are now known as NAPAA/OPEIU Guild 17.

The vote was administered by the American Arbitration Association (AAA). Secret ballots were mailed to all 1,200 members of NAPAA and when the ballots were tallied, more than 94 percent had voted in favor of affiliation with OPEIU. Given the mandate of its members, the NAPAA Board of Directors approved the affiliation via conference call immediately following the count.

“Our affiliation with OPEIU is the first step toward ensuring that Allstate agents
(Continued on page 4)



International President Michael Goodwin, NAPAA/OPEIU Guild 17 Executive Director Jim Fish and President Robert Isacsen, Director of Communication, Education and Research Nicole Korkolis and Director of Organization and Field Services Kevin Kistler oversee the ballot count on Wednesday, August 17, 2011 at the New York offices of the American Arbitration Association (AAA). Also pictured counting ballots are AAA employees (seated).

Local 212 Members Ratify Agreement Ending 12-Week Lockout at the Blues!

Through persistence and unwavering solidarity, Local 212 in Buffalo, New York won its struggle with HealthNow New York, Inc. d.b.a. Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Western New York (BCBS of WNY), ending a 12-week lockout and ratifying a new three-year agreement for 390 workers.

Since the beginning of the lockout, which began on April 26,

2011, Local 212 members maintained a highly visible community presence that put constant pressure on BCBS of WNY to end the lockout and return them to work. As a result, members returned to work on August 1 following a negotiated company-paid two-week vacation and a contract that included wage increases and

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Editorial



The President Comes Out Fighting

By Michael Goodwin, International President

After many months of difficult and unproductive discussions, President Obama has come out fighting against the intransigence of the Republicans and hard-line Tea Party members in Congress by taking his message directly to the American public.

As we all witnessed, the president's address to Congress on September 8, 2011 was one of the best addresses he has made while in office. He laid out his plans to jump-start the economy with the "American Jobs Act" legislation and urged Congress to pass it right away. Within moments of his address, opposition leaders announced they were opposed to any legislation that includes revenue increases. This is a totally unrealistic position, since most economic observers have stated that it will be necessary to have both revenue increases and spending cuts in order to solve the long-term federal budget deficit.

As you know, the resolution of the "default crisis" in August included the establishment of a twelve-member Congressional committee with a mandate to come up with recommendations for a long-term solution to the deficit problem. In the event the committee is unable to do so, then automatic spending cuts totaling \$1.2 trillion would occur. More than \$4 trillion is needed over 10 years, however, to stabilize the federal budget. This work is critically important, not only to the United States, but throughout the world because the instability of the federal budget is causing economic downturns everywhere. Following the resolution of the "default crisis" in August, Standard & Poor's lowered the credit rating of the United States causing harmful psychological effects on world markets. Failure to reach a long-term solution on the deficit would be even more harmful to the stability of these markets.

The public believes that representatives in Congress are not doing the job they were elect-

ed to do, but that they seem to care more about the 2012 elections than anything else. Their do-nothing, stonewalling positions may be good politics for them, but bad for the economy and the American worker. Let's not forget that they are playing with the lives and wellbeing of real people suffering with a more than nine percent unemployment rate. And when you count workers who have given up looking for a job or who have exhausted unemployment benefits, the employment rate jumps to 17 percent. We are in the throes of the worst depression since the 1930s and, unfortunately, those "who have" are caring very little about those that "don't have."

There was once a time when Democrats and Republicans came together as Americans in times of crisis by working together to find solutions. That is not true today when you think about people applauding over a statement that there were 234 executions in Texas or booing a question from a gay man submitted electronically during a Republican Party debate. And, in neither case did any of the participants running for president of the United States raise one word of objection to this abhorrent behavior. In addition, Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY), minority leader in the Senate, has stated over and over again that his main goal is to see to it that President Obama is a one-term president. One would only hope that he would rearrange his priorities to help unemployed workers find jobs. President Obama has given him the opportunity with the "American Jobs Act," but there is little hope that Senator McConnell will reorganize his agenda.

Therefore, President Obama's recent tough stance is necessary and his pledge to take the issue to the American public is the only course open to him. He believes that the issue can only be resolved in the ballot box in 2012, while continuously reminding Congress that

unemployed workers can't wait 14 months to find a job.

The "new" President Obama is a refreshing personality change to the base voters who worked so hard to get him elected in the first place. Some of those supporters are members of the AFL-CIO Executive Council who attended a meeting with the president on August 2, 2011 at the White House. At the meeting, labor leaders urged him to take a tougher stance with Congress, which he did in his September address. The labor leaders believe that they played a huge role in moving the president to the position of clearly stating what he believes in and stands for. The labor leaders were pleased with President Obama's statement in his address in support of collective bargaining. To my knowledge, this was the first time in history that a U.S. president specifically expressed such support. Thank you, Mr. President! Keep on fighting – we are with you!



President Obama greets International President Goodwin at the White House on August 2, 2011.

OPEIU Forms Nurses Council



International President Michael Goodwin swears in the new officers of the OPEIU Nurses Council. Pictured left to right are Vice Chair Paige Yates, Chair Tasinda Ridsdale, Secretary-Treasurer Dina Carlisle and President Goodwin.

OPEIU has formed the OPEIU Nurses Council with a mission to represent and promote the interests of all nursing professionals within OPEIU.

At a meeting held August 18-21, 2011 in Seattle, Washington, nurse representatives from throughout the United States and Puerto Rico gathered to establish the Council's Constitution and Bylaws and elect officers for the following year. Newly elected were Council Chair Tasinda Ridsdale of Local 459 in Lansing, Michigan, Vice Chair Paige Yates from Local 22, Little Rock, Arkansas, and Secretary-Treasurer Dina Carlisle from Local 40 in Mt. Clemens, Michigan.

"The OPEIU Nurses Council has been established to strengthen our nurses within the industry, both at the bargaining table and in terms of organizing new members," said International President Michael Goodwin. "Solidarity among nurses, regardless of Local Union affiliation and region, makes OPEIU a more effective representative of the nursing profession throughout the country, from Hawaii to New York, Puerto Rico to Michigan. It also paves the way to help promote a climate of professionalism within the nursing community, promoting best practices regarding patient care, safety concerns and compensation issues."

The Council's goals also include promoting and impacting legislation that affects the nursing profession, and acting as mentor and resource in the organization of other nurses interested in collective bargaining.

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



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ACPS

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A Credit Union for Members?

OPEIU is considering whether an OPEIU credit union is a good idea for our union. If one were to be established, it would provide banking services to all OPEIU members.

We are advised that the first step in the process is a requirement for OPEIU to survey its members and to provide the results of that survey to credit union regulators.

We, therefore, ask all OPEIU members to take a few moments and fill out the brief seven question survey below and return it by mail, email it to frontdesk@opeiu.org or fax to 212-727-3466. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

- **Would you be interested in joining a credit union serving OPEIU members?**

Yes _____ No _____

- **If so, would you be interested in joining a newly chartered credit union offering savings accounts, personal loans, and other limited services in the beginning?**

Yes _____ No _____

- **What type of future services would you want the proposed credit union to offer?**

-
-
- **Would you be willing to pledge an initial deposit in the credit union?**

Yes _____ No _____

If yes, how much would you be willing to deposit?
\$ _____

- **Would you be interested in making regular deposits (such as payroll deduction) in the credit union?**

Yes _____ No _____

If yes, how much would you deposit monthly? \$ _____

- **Would you be interested in borrowing money from the proposed credit union?**

Yes _____ No _____

If yes, how much would you borrow? \$ _____

- **Would you be interested in becoming a volunteer at the credit union?**

Yes _____ No _____

Please return this survey to:

**Office and Professional Employees
International Union (OPEIU)**

**Credit Union Survey
80 Eighth Avenue
20th Floor
New York, NY 10011**

Or email to frontdesk@opeiu.org; or fax to: 212-727-3466.
You can also take this survey by visiting www.opeiu.org.

Letters to the Editor



OPEIU reprints letters from our members on various issues. We invite our readers to continue to share their opinions with us, whether in support of or in opposition to our own. Debate is healthy and welcomed in this union. Letters are edited for length only, not content. Remember: Anonymous letters will not be printed.

**You can also reach us on the web:
www.opeiu.org**

President Goodwin:

We extend our gratitude to you for all the help you have given to Local 50. We believe one of the best decisions that our Board made was to affiliate with OPEIU. Yes, Local 50 has and is still going through some challenging times. [OPEIU International Vice President for Region V] Walter Allen Jr. is a great help. He has steered our Association more into the Local Union model.

We can't say enough about [International Representative] Donna Shaffer. She has done an exceptional job beyond her call of duty. Her expertise and willingness to assist us in anything we need is invaluable to us. She has a good understanding of nurses' issues and relates well with our members. Her input and recommendations have helped our Local to run more smoothly on a daily basis.

Again, thank you so much. We greatly appreciate your generosity and we are proud to belong to OPEIU.

In Solidarity,

Joan Craft, President
Marina Robinson, Secretary
Local 50
Honolulu, Hawaii

President Goodwin:

Wow, what an exciting Conference. I have attended a few conventions in the past, but this was my first [Area Educational] Conference. The pride I feel for OPEIU is indescribable. Thank you for the opportu-

nity to learn and play with a great group.

I really enjoyed meeting you and our conversation about Local 13 in St. Louis. Look forward to working together in the future.

Shelle Veres, Vice President

Local 13
St. Louis, Missouri

Brother Goodwin:

I would like to thank you for allowing Paul Bohelski, Senior International Representative, to assist Local 381 with our recent grievance and arbitration. We received a successful award from the arbitrator and we couldn't have done it without Paul's help. He always makes time to answer questions and address concerns we have by telephone and/or email.

OPEIU has a great staff and is represented by some very hard-working people. Again, just wanted to say thanks.

Fraternally,

Debra Graumann, President

Local 381
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

President Goodwin:

Thank you so much for writing me a reference letter for the Berger-Marks Edna award. It has truly been a pleasure working with the OPEIU team on the Young Worker project [Rising Stars]. I am so happy to have the opportunity. I think we will do great things!

In Solidarity,

Jessica Ingerick

Local 277
Washington, D.C.

Allstate Agent Group Votes to Affiliate with OPEIU

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are treated as true independent contractors instead of employees," said Jim Fish, NAPAA/OPEIU Guild 17 executive director. "Currently, agents are subjected to unachievable quotas and arbitrary threats of reduced compensation and the termination of their contracts. Many companies today are circumventing IRS precepts regarding employee status and are now classifying these same people as independent contractors. This practice has to stop!

"And there is no doubt about it, the 94.4 percent vote by our members is a bellwether and should serve as a wake-up call to all

captive carriers throughout the insurance industry," Fish continued. "Agents are saying they've had enough of the excessive controls, threats of termination and wage cuts. We look forward to working closely with OPEIU to develop strategies that will both help our members prosper and ensure they are treated fairly."

"This is a matter of defending the interests of ill-treated small business owners," said International President Michael Goodwin. "NAPAA members recognized that OPEIU is the right organization to help them achieve the benefits and protections they deserve. With the insurance industry being highly regulated at the state level,

NAPAA/OPEIU Guild 17 will be able to offer legislative access and legal support to questionable compliance issues, faced by both agents and customers alike."

NAPAA is a non-profit organization whose members are predominantly insurance agents under contract with Allstate. In addition to offering a variety of benefits and services, NAPAA further serves its members by acting on their behalf and speaking with a distinct and unfettered voice on a wide range of issues.

Professional employees in the areas of health care, education, aviation and sports umpiring have been attracted to OPEIU and sought representation in recent years.

North Central-Erie/Northeast Area Educational Conference Stresses Building a Stronger Union

The 2011 North Central-Erie/Northeast Area Educational Conference brought together more than 100 local leaders and shop stewards to learn ways to help “Build A Stronger Union,” and to hear details of OPEIU’s Rising Stars youth initiative.

The conference included a presentation on grievance handling by Bill Barry, director of labor studies at the Community College of Baltimore County, as well as the role and function of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS) by former OPEIU Vice President and current FMCS Commissioner Cindy Jeffries. Jeffries is one of four OPEIU members currently serving as an FMCS commissioner.

Participants also were given an update on major organizing and strike situations within the union, including a report on the HealthNow New York, Inc. lockout by Local 212 officers and members on the negotiating committee. A report was also given on the American Red Cross national strike by OPEIU International

Vice President for Region VII and Local 459 Senior Service Representative Joseph Marutiak, and Health Professionals and Allied Employees (HPAE), AFT/AFL-CIO President Ann Twomey. After the report, conference participants boarded buses and went to the American Red Cross Philadelphia headquarters and joined striking sister and brother HPAE members on the picket line.

The conference also included a presentation by OPEIU Local 153 Organizing Consultant Patricia Hoffman about “Organizing Utilizing Technology.” Hoffman shared a video that includes short testimonials from OPEIU members and encourages viewers to “Come Join Us!” that has been instrumental in organizing campaigns on university campuses in the Northeast. “This use of media technologies is an excellent way to reach out to the unorganized and to have them hear directly from our members about the benefits of being part of a union,” Hoffman told conference participants. Similar organizing videos are being produced by other Local Unions throughout the United States.



North Central-Erie/Northeast Area Educational Conference participants show union solidarity by joining the picket line at the American Red Cross Philadelphia headquarters with striking members of the Health Professionals and Allied Employees (HPAE), AFT/AFL-CIO.



Local 153 Organizing Consultant Patricia Hoffman explains how using media technologies can help Local Unions organize new members.

OPEIU Rising Stars Make Huge Impact at AFL-CIO Next Up Summit!

In a standing room only event, more than 800 young workers gathered on Thursday, September 28, 2011 in Minneapolis, Minnesota to attend the AFL-CIO Next Up Summit. OPEIU had one of the largest consortiums at the summit with close to 100 members in attendance, and with the official OPEIU “Rising Stars” youth initiative bus on hand, we were clearly a huge presence!

“This is what the future looks like,” AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Liz Shuler said during her opening remarks. “This summit in itself is an accomplishment. But the biggest

accomplishment will be what you do while you are here and what you do when you leave.”

The summit, which was held September 28-October 2 and discussed topics such as the future of the union movement as well as the very uncertain economic situation facing young union workers, is another step in the AFL-CIO’s efforts to involve young union members in the movement and encourage them to take a more active role at both a local and national level.

OPEIU members were extremely active participants at the summit, being chosen to

lead two “UnConference” sessions – breakout sessions led by conference participants on topics of their choosing. “UnConferences” were led by OPEIU Local 8 member Kamaria Hightower, who discussed Implementing Young Labor, and Local 2’s Caniesha Washington who discussed The Young — Young and the Old-Young. Both sessions were heavily attended. A caucus led by OPEIU Rising Stars leaders Tim Sullivan, Jessica Ingerick and Nick Galipeau discussed the OPEIU Rising Stars program

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Why It's Important to Support OPEIU's Political Action Fund

Submitted by **Walter Allen Jr., OPEIU Region V International Vice President and Local 30 Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer**

The headlines tell the stories, but which stories tell us what we need to know as working Americans? Here are some examples; you choose the ones that apply to you.

"Chevron Profits Up 43 Percent in Second Quarter," or *"Republicans 'Just Say No' to Taxes on the Rich in Debt Deal."*

"Sales of Luxury Cars, Yachts Soar As Recovery Arrives, for Some," or *"Jobless Rate Stuck As Recovery Slow To Advance."*

"Deep Cuts to Schools, Senior Programs, Public Safety Coming," or *"Nike to Triple Investment in China Operations."*

Headlines are always eye catching and attention getting. That's what they are intended to do. And the headlines of today are certainly worth thinking about. As clear as they are, as well as the stories that follow them, the question is why are people having such a hard time getting the message?

Seldom has it been easier for working people to figure out who is on their side in Washington, D.C. While it is clear that both sides are to blame for the polarization and inaction there, the sides are clearly different. Often times, though, the issues are made confusing to make a point that is simply not true. The trick is in the language. It almost seems necessary to have a translator to clarify things. Here are a couple of examples followed by some plain language translations that may be helpful:

They say, "We are opposed to tax increases on the rich and will not support any legislation that will raise taxes."

I say, "Letting the discounts expire that rich people have been getting from the Bush tax cuts is like the sale at Macy's ending. When the specials end it is not considered a price increase. The sale is just over."

They say, "If the wealthy get to keep more of their money through lower taxes they might create jobs for the rest of us and create a stronger economy."

I say, "Except that has never worked in the past. Just give working people back more of their money and they will spend it without any prodding from the government at all. One thing the middle class is good at is buying things,

(which is probably why we are not rich). More money in the pockets of the middle class certainly will help the economy."

They say, "Corporations should get the breaks because they create the jobs in the first place."

I say, "Yeah, in other countries. Why shouldn't every one of us, and every company in the country, pay their fair share? Why are the middle class always picking up the tab for the rest?"

They say, "The American people do not want the government to be involved in their health care."

I say, "For one thing, Americans who have lost their jobs, have children, have sick children, need care and cannot afford it, have been rejected by an insurance company, gotten hurt, had an accident, or are not trust fund babies. And two, those who do not want the government to be involved in their health care should give back their Medicare right away. (Maybe

they think Medicare is provided by the corporations.)"

They say, "The Supreme Court should not allow the government to make people have health insurance. The mandate should be illegal."

I say, "How will the auto insurance companies take the news when they find out that they cannot make people buy that coverage anymore either? And besides, will that also mean that hospitals can then send sick people away from the emergency rooms without care because they have chosen not to have coverage? If not, why not?"

They say, "There is far too much abuse that goes on in the entitlement programs and money could be saved if it was ended."

I say, "I agree. You first. Close the tax loopholes for private jets, offshore accounts hidden from taxes, unearned income tax discounts and so many other huge advantages the rest of us do not have access to, then we'll talk

Notice to All Local Unions Regarding Form 35

All Local Unions are reminded that they must comply with Article XIX, Section 10 of the OPEIU Constitution regarding procedures for check-off of contributions to the J.B. Moss Voice of the Electorate Fund (VOTE). Section 10 reads:

"Effective July 1, 2010, all Local Unions in the United States shall ascertain whether any employer(s) with which the Local Union has a collective bargaining agreement allows its stockholders, executives, or administrative personnel to contribute to an employer Political Action Committee Fund (PAC) through payroll deduction. Any employer which allows any such payroll deduction must be required to permit employees in the bargaining unit to utilize the same procedures for check-off of contributions to the J.B. Moss Voice of the Electorate Fund.

In all collective bargaining negotiations which begin on or after July 1, 2010, each Local Union in the United States must vigorously pursue agreement with the employer(s) to a provision permitting check-off of contributions to the J.B. Moss Voice of the Electorate Fund.

All Local Unions in the United States shall be required to use a standard form(s) approved by the International Union Executive Board for check-off of dues, fees and/or J.B. Moss Voice of the Electorate Fund contributions."

The International has prepared **Form 35** and made them available to all Local Unions for this purpose. OPEIU also urges all Local Unions to include a discussion of the J.B. Moss VOTE Fund on all membership meeting agendas, and to make Form 35 sign-up cards available at all meetings.

tical Report

about making sure that people who work under the table while on unemployment just to keep their homes, pay their fair share.”

They say, “Social Security is not sustainable.”

I say, “Maybe not, but the vast majority of Americans rely on it when they cannot work anymore so make it sustainable. Last I checked, the ‘majority rules’ concept was still in effect in this country.”

Let’s face it, there are far more of us than there are of them. The richest one percent of Americans have gotten wealthier over the past three years (just ask Mitt Romney, for one) and for-profit health insurance companies and oil companies are setting all-time profit records. At the same time, records are also being set by the rest of us -- record number of people

looking for jobs, record number of foreclosures, record number of school closings, record low car sales, appliance sales, home sales, and on, and on.

We are not powerless. We can change this. We just have to work together and make those in charge put us first — the majority of Americans, not the select few at the top. We will never match them dollar for dollar so we must simply outnumber them. We must speak with a single, loud and clear voice. We must make our demands known and then make sure that those we elect stand up for working class Americans, no exceptions.

Our agenda is pretty simple. We want to have access to good jobs, a good education for our kids, a chance to retire with dignity, and decent health care that we can all

afford. Not a long list. And not an unreasonable one either. If we stand together, we can do it.

Finally, we have to be able to afford to make our case in Washington and the statehouses across this country. That, unfortunately, takes money. If every member of this union alone donated \$1, one single dollar from their paychecks every month, OPEIU would have that voice. Our union could have that voice and make our case with that small personal investment from each of us. Do not wait any longer. We have a lot to do and not much time to do it. Join us now, show your support, and be a part of the changes you want to see in our country. Sign up for the OPEIU J.B. Moss VOTE Fund today. Just \$1 per month, \$12 a year and we will be heard!

Wisconsin Governor Recall Effort Begins!

The recall effort against anti-worker Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker has begun, as November 15 begins the official circulation of petitions, giving supporters until January 17 to collect the necessary 540,208 signatures to force a recall election. The recall election could be held as early as Spring 2012.

“When Walker decided to break unions by taking away collective bargaining rights from public workers, he ensured he would eventually be kicked out of office,” said International President Michael Goodwin. “And that time has come. The labor movement and all working families won’t rest until Walker is out of office.”

An effort in August resulted in the recall of two Republican State Senate seats that were then filled with Democrats, but fell short of the three or more needed to take control of the Senate. Wisconsin law dictates that the governor must be in office at least a year before recall petitions can be submitted. Walker took office on January 3, 2010.

OPEIU Rising Stars Make Huge Impact at AFL-CIO Next Up Summit!

(Continued from page 5)

and future plans was also heavily attended by OPEIU members.

In addition, attendees were afforded the opportunity to speak candidly about their ideas for a new Labor Party, activating young leaders and creating young worker groups at their Local Unions. More importantly, those participating were able to hear testimonials from union activists on the successes and failures in building coalitions of young workers.

This year’s Next Up conference provided no shortage of enthusiastic and determined young workers. “When I left [for the Summit], I joked with a friend that sometimes we think of young union members as just as unusual as unicorns, but after spending a weekend with 800 of my peers who are just as dedicated to the labor movement’s survival, I realized we’re not unusual or rare,” said OPEIU Local 334 member Julie Hunter. “The weekend was a great opportunity to meet, brain-

storm, and learn with activists my age. I look forward to taking the energy and ideas from the weekend and applying it in Virginia.”

As a result of the conference, OPEIU’s Rising Stars youth initiative committee has been charged to return to their respective Local

Unions and reinforce the ideas and activities presented at the Next Up Summit. Our goals at OPEIU reflect the desire not only to continue the conversations begun in Minneapolis, but more importantly, to establish a model to develop and cultivate young leaders within OPEIU.



Approximately 100 OPEIU members aged 35 and under attended the AFL-CIO’s Next Up Summit in Minneapolis, Minnesota on September 28-October 2, 2011. They are pictured with OPEIU’s Rising Stars youth initiative bus.

Congratulations to 2011 Scholarship Winners!

OPEIU congratulates the winners of the 2011 Howard Coughlin Memorial and John Kelly Labor Studies Scholarship Funds.

Howard Coughlin Memorial Scholarship Fund

Full-Time Winners



Darpan Kayastha
Local Union 153
Region II



Ashutosh Ailani
Local Union 32
Region II



Gail Jennings
Local Union 537
Region V

Hannah Strickland
Local Union 109
Region V



Catherine Erdelyi
Local Union 153
Region II



Jessi Mendoza
ITPE/Local Union 4873
Region III

Hanan Saafir
Local Union 277
Region IV

Judith A. Cummings
Local Union 9
Region VII

[NO PHOTOS AVAILABLE]



Merima Hadzimuratovic
Local Union 8
Region VI



Devin Schott
Local Union 459
Region VII



Chanel Collymore
Local Union 153
Region II

Part-Time Winners

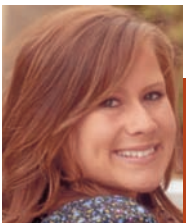
Jaclyn Magee
Local Union 95
Region VII



Viad Ciocoi
Local Union 153
Region II



John Kelly Labor Studies Scholarship Fund Winners



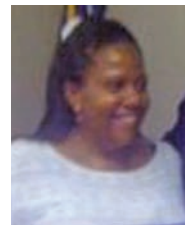
Natalie Ball
Local Union 109
Region V



Chanel Collymore
Local Union 153
Region II



Shaun Francis
AMLU/Guild 322
Region II



Gail Jennings
Local Union 537
Region V

Alexa Sicher
Local Union 112
Region II



Shaun Francis
AMLU/Guild 322
Region II



Judith A. Cummings
Local Union 9
Region VII

[NO PHOTO AVAILABLE]

Local Union News

Local 3 Celebrates 100th Anniversary!

Local 3 in San Francisco, California celebrated its 100th anniversary on Saturday, August 27, 2011 with a membership picnic and awards ceremony that recognized members with 25 years or more of service. With a charter signed by Samuel Gompers on April 3, 1911, the group began as the Stenographers, Typewriters, Bookkeepers and Assistants Association Lodge 13188. On February 1, 1945, Office Employees International Union, Local 3 was established under the signature of OEIU's first president, Paul Hutchings.



Pictured with Local 3 President Hang Le To (front row, fourth from left) are Local 3 members with more than 25 years of service. Pictured left to right are (front row) Ellen Baughman, Virginia Woods (with 50 years of service!), Diana Kane, President To, (back row) Lorna Blanchard, Diane Krause, Lindy (Caroline) Chris, Jorge Corrales, Joe Goglio, Edith Laroux, Amelia Pete, OPEIU Secretary-Treasurer Emerita and Local 3 member Nancy Wohlforth, Sheila Ratcliffe and Secretary Treasurer Conny Ford.

Local 376 President Potts Dies

Local 376 in Bristol, Connecticut, is mourning the death of Edna Potts, who served as president for many years. She was 63.

Born in Italy, Potts was employed by the Connecticut American Federation of Teachers (AFT) in Rocky Hill, and loved to cook for her large family, spending time with her grandchildren at the beach and on camping trips. She leaves behind her husband, David, her three children and twelve grandchildren, as well as several nieces and nephews. She will be deeply missed by every-

one who knew her.

Local 376 Vice President Nancy Swanson served with Potts for many years, and after a recent election, now serves as president. She is the labor relations specialist at the Hartford Federation of Teachers. Jim Howe was elected vice president.



Edna Potts

FCT Has New Contract!

As this issue went to press, the editors of *White Collar* have been informed that the Federation of Catholic Teachers (FCT)/OPEIU Local 153 have reached a three-year contract agreement with the Association of Catholic Schools (ACS).



Members of the Federation of Catholic Teachers (FCT) demonstrate at the Archdiocese of New York's headquarters in midtown Manhattan. Pictured are FCT Executive Council Member and teacher at St. Jean Baptiste High School Daniel Linehan, FCT President Patricia Gabriel, Vice President Eileen Sweeney and Organizer Julia Pignataro.

Local Union News

Local 109 Mourns Loss of Pilot

On October 17, 2011, a helicopter crash claimed the lives of Air Methods Corporation pilot and Local 109 member Captain James Freudenberg, his crew and a patient. Following is a statement from Captain Dan McDade, president of Local 109:

“The recent accident claiming the lives of our union brother, Captain James Freudenberg, his crew and patient was tragic and our deepest sympathies go out to the families, flight teams, friends and communities of those who lost their lives. This is truly tragic on many levels. Tragic in the lives of their families, coworkers and friends. Tragic as failure of our industry in the eyes of the public. Tragic in the loss of confidence of a vital service to our nation’s medical care. Tragic in the perception of how effective our efforts are for improving safety. Tragic in highlighting the lack of urgency for effective government regulation in our industry.

As a union representing the interests of the largest Local Union of emergency medical service pilots, our working conditions are at the very heart of why we organized in the first place: our ultimate safety while performing our jobs. At Air

Methods, the union and management have joined together in many collaborative efforts to improve our safety that mirror successful programs in the airline industry.

There is an alphabet soup of acronyms describing our joint efforts to date. SMS, ASAP/MSAP, LOSA and FOQA are designed to provide tools and systemize the way in which we approach making our working environment safer. As a Local Union of union pilots, we are partnering with management and regulators in these efforts to improve our working environment. We encourage confidential self reporting, confidential flight data recording and confidential observations of flight performance. As we identify mistakes, incorporate the best practices, prioritize corrective actions, adjust our perceptions and ultimately change our culture, we do so knowing that there will be setbacks along the way, but that will not deter or discourage our collaborative efforts for a better and safer industry tomorrow. Speaking on behalf of all our pilots who fly the line daily in a safe and proficient manner, we thank the American public for their continued trust in our ability to transport their loved ones in a safe and medically superior manner.”

HNA Logo Contest Winner Visits International Offices

The winner of the Hawaii Nurses Association/OPEIU Local 50 Logo Contest, Arlene Santos, RN included a visit at the OPEIU International Offices in New York during her prize trip to the Big Apple on September 8, 2011. Santos, a registered nurse at the Kaiser facilities in Honolulu, and her husband, Nelson Nicacio Yanos, won an all-expenses-paid trip to New York sponsored by the International for her winning logo design.

“Thank you again for providing and facilitating a wonderful New York experience,” said Santos in an email to the International. “I wanted to let you all know how grateful I was for the trip and how much I appreciated all that you did for my husband and me during our exciting stay in your fair city. Your generosity was overwhelming. Not only did our first trip to the Big Apple turn out to be one of the best holidays we’ve had, we had the added pleasure of meeting you and the OPEIU team. And

what a unique experience in learning more about OPEIU! I appreciated you taking the

time out of your busy schedule to visit with us. Thank you for your warm hospitality.”



HNA Logo Contest winner Arlene Santos, RN (third from right) and her husband Nelson Nicacio Yanos (second from right) visit OPEIU International Offices on September 8, 2011. Also pictured from left to right are OPEIU Director of Organization and Field Services Kevin Kistler, Director of Communication, Education and Research Nicole Korkolis and International President Michael Goodwin.

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

Local Union News

Guild 62 Acupuncturists Are Chartered!



The National Guild of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine/OPEIU Guild 62 has rejoined OPEIU and was officially chartered on March 1, 2011. Pictured with the charter are (left to right) International President Michael Goodwin, International Secretary-Treasurer Mary Mahoney, Guild 62 President Steve Paine, OMD, L.Ac. and Vice President of Guild 62's New Jersey Chapter Andy Rosenfarb, ND.

"No other association of acupuncturists can come remotely close to this level of power to make our profession a major political force and to help drive patients and revenues to our field," said Paine about the affiliation with OPEIU.

Local 381 Member Reinstated with All Lost Wages

Local 381 member Shanna England (right), in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, has been reinstated to her position as benefits specialist at Plumbers and Pipefitters



Local 344, and made whole for all lost wages and benefits that she would have been entitled as a result of her wrongful termination. In addition to the Arbitrator's ruling that the employer did not have just cause to terminate her employment, he also ordered that any record of the discharge must be expunged from her personnel file.

England returned to work on Monday, August 15, 2011 escorted by Local 381 President Debra Grauman (left). OPEIU Senior International Representative Paul Bohelski presented this case before Arbitrator A. Henry Hempe on April 12, 2011, who rendered his decision on July 29. "After full review of all the evidence, facts and circumstances related to this very intense case, the arbitrator got it exactly right," said Bohelski.

Locals 29 and 3 Support Farm Workers



Members of Local 29 and Local 3, Alameda and San Francisco, California, led by Local 29 President Tamara Rubyn, came out in force to support the United Farm Workers (UFW) by joining a demonstration in Sacramento, California calling for passage of SB 104, a bill that would allow farm workers to organize via card check. The measure was eventually vetoed by California Governor Jerry Brown, who sided with big business over the farm workers.



At the demonstration, with UFW President Arturo Rodriguez (center, black shirt) are (left to right) Harriet Scott, International Project Organizer Josue Montijo, Esmeralda Gomez, International Representative Iram Ramirez, Rodriguez, Local 29 President Tamara Rubyn, International Organizers Cesar Mendia and David Flores, and Local 3 President Conny Ford.

Local 212 Members Ratify Agreement Ending 12-Week Lockout at the Blues!

(Continued from page 1)
a job security provision.

“Local 212 was greatly assisted by the International, which provided staff, financial support, and a grassroots community organizing campaign,” said Local 212 President Caroline Muszynski. “With the assistance of the New York State AFL-CIO, the Buffalo area labor community and a local coalition of the clergy, Local 212 members maintained a strong picket line, held public demonstrations, prayer vigils, gathered petitions and letters of support from the local Buffalo community at public venues and events.

“On behalf of Local 212 members, I would like to thank everyone in the labor movement, the clergy and the community for all the support and encouragement they gave us during this difficult struggle. As you go through such a protracted experience, it is uplifting to know that the community in which you live, work and worship really cares about you,” Muszynski said.

A major point of contention was BCBS of WNY’s demand to remove job security protection provisions resulting from subcontracting from the contract. The new agreement provides that such protection will continue for all 390 locked-out workers. Local 212 also achieved wage increases of 5 percent over the life of the agreement, a \$2,500 lump sum bonus, and made no concessions to the benefit package and working conditions currently provided to Local 212 bargaining unit employees.

“We are very pleased that the parties were able to reach an agreement through the process of collective bargaining, demonstrating that mutual agreement trumps unilateral action,” said International President Michael Goodwin. “The message that these brave workers have sent to all of our shop stewards and members is the need to be absolutely unified on union proposals and in the face of adverse employer demands. They have demonstrated that solidarity and worker resistance prevails!”

A number of people made this victory possible, including Local 212’s Union Action Committee Team (uACT), which included one member of the Negotiating Team and Executive Board member, Lynn Brooks, and seven volunteer members,

Luis Rodriguez, Dana Delano, Janice Siegel, Denise Beyer, Carol Gambino, Charlene Brown, John Caligiuri as well as OPEIU International Representative Patt Gibbs, and was overseen by President Muszynski. OPEIU International Organizer David Flores and International Representative Gary Nuber were also on the ground in Buffalo and integral to the success of the community outreach activities. Local 212 Business Representative Deana Fox and OPEIU Director of Organization and Field Services Kevin Kistler steered the negotiations and helped reach the contract.



Local 212 family members got involved and helped with community outreach activities. Tara Segiel, daughter of Local 212 member Janice Segiel, and David Muszynski, son of President Caroline Muszynski, celebrate the victory by distributing flowers that welcome locked-out workers back to the job on August 1, 2011. The flowers had a note attached that read: *Please accept this rose today — symbol of higher pay, symbol of a job secure, symbol of a future sure! Welcome Back! From the OPEIU Team.*