Michael Goodwin Retires; Lanigan, Hepburn and Administration Elected to Lead Local 153

A new Local 153 Administration was elected by acclamation at a general membership meeting held on September 25. The members of this administration will serve a three-year term of office.

Although the administration is new, it has plenty of familiar faces. Prior to the election, Local 153 Business Manager Michael Goodwin announced his retirement. The new Business Manager is Richard Lanigan, President of OPEIU. Replacing Lanigan as Secretary-Treasurer of Local 153 is Myra Hepburn. Ms. Hepburn’s election is historic, as she is the first woman and the first African-American elected to that position at Local 153.

There are also some new faces on the Local 153 Executive Board, and their names, as well as the names of the entire administration elected on September 25, appear in this edition of Local 153 News.

The nominations portion of the meeting was chaired by Joe Sano, a Local 153 member who is the Executive Director of the Organization of New York State Management/Confidential Employees (OMCE).

OMCE Executive Director Joe Sano congratulates the elected members of the Local 153 Administration. From left to right are: Business Manager Richard Lanigan, Secretary-Treasurer Myra Hepburn, Vice President Gwendolyn Rushing, President Steve Turkeltaub, Sano, and Recording Secretary Wilma Artau-Banda.

Lanigan and the other Executive Officers, as well as the Union’s Trustees, Executive Board members, delegates and alternate delegates to the 2019 OPEIU Convention were nominated as a slate. The nomination of the administration’s slate was made by Grace Adams-Cunningham, a member in good standing of Local 153 who is employed at EmblemHealth.

“Mr. Chairman, I would like to say a few words about this team,” Cunningham said, in beginning her nomination. “They are experienced and always work in the best interests of the members. They are always on the job. Time after time I have heard of the weekend emails and late night phone calls by representatives of this local trying to resolve a contract or grievance.”

Grace Adams-Cunningham talked about the administration team’s outstanding track record. “In the last three years, while other unions have lost members, Local 153 has continued to organize and grow,” she said.

Cunningham pointed out that Local 153 organized 90 public employees of Upper Darby Township, in Pennsylvania, and employees of Planned Parenthood in Miami, Florida, as well as Madison

Continued on page 3
The Union Difference is Huge

First, on behalf of the newly elected officers let me say thank you to all who attended the recent Local 153 membership meeting. We will do our best to keep our local strong for years to come.

As a long term Local 153 officer, over time I have seen the employers’ approach to bargaining change. I have also observed how that change in approach has impacted the members of the union and their families. I have also seen how Local 153 has likewise changed its approach in bargaining and how this adjustment has made a beneficial difference in the working conditions, compensation and benefits of our members and their families. In these same years I have also seen that people who work without union representation generally do not enjoy the security, wages, benefits and work conditions that union members often take for granted.

A few years ago I found myself negotiating for Local 153 members employed by an insurance company. After doing some research about that employer’s competition, I learned that employees working for the non-union competitor who were performing similar work to our members were earning an average of five dollars less per hour in wages. For employees working a 40-hour week that is a difference of over ten thousand dollars per year. That five dollars an hour difference also means less in Social Security contributions and a lower match in the employer’s 401k. Over a career spanning twenty years or more that difference between the union group and its non-union competitor equates to several hundred thousand dollars per employee.

I have always been curious about why the employees of the non-union insurance company did not gather together, contact a union and try to improve their conditions. As most people know, those who form unions generally experience a vast improvement in their working conditions. After all, if that were not the case then unions wouldn’t exist. This is one of the reasons why the unions in the United States and in the metropolitan area of New York have grown in the last two years.

Given that the difference in this case was five dollars an hour and, over a career, that difference can equal several hundred thousand dollars, there is no question that it can also determine whether a parent can afford to help their children with college costs. It can also mean having a retirement nest egg through 401k and Social Security contributions. In other words, it’s a huge difference.

The union dues paid by a member certainly pale in comparison to the heavy cost of working without union representation. Many of us have neighbors, friends or relatives who could do so much better if they were part of a union. The differences in wages and benefits would be huge. There would also be a significant difference in job security and other contractual rights. And while they would be doing so much better if they joined a union, the union itself would be getting stronger because unions always become more powerful when they are growing.

There is an important reason for our members to consider these facts. We must do all we can to make the union movement stronger and there are easy ways to do this. Here is one example: Employment is a frequent topic of conversation among ourselves and our relatives, friends and neighbors. When you find yourself in a conversation with a relative, friend or neighbor — or even someone you don’t know, review the facts about the benefits of union membership. Ask them the most obvious question: Wouldn’t they be better off with a union?

The answer will invariably be “yes.” Indeed, such a conversation might make our own union stronger while providing your relative, friend or neighbor with the desire to organize and improve their work experience. You can even let them know that Local 153 has successfully represented workers for many, many years and would be happy to hear from them. If they go the full distance in organizing and successfully negotiate a contract, they and their families will be better off and so will our union. Because as unions add members they grow even stronger.

In closing, I once again want to thank all members for the vote of confidence in our Local 153 administration that took place at our September general membership meeting. We thank you for your support and we promise to always work hard on your behalf.
Square Garden tour guides, Medical Assistants at the HTC Health Centers and two Catholic high schools.

“In addition,” Cunningham continued, “hundreds of new members have been organized in the hotel industry—Local 153’s largest bargaining unit with almost 3,000 members. Hotel workers in New York have the best wages and benefits anywhere in the world in the hotel industry.

“In the last three years the union has successfully negotiated hundreds of contracts including one with my own employer, Emblem Health,” Cunningham noted.

She added that Local 153 cares about its members, providing numerous examples. “The union is always striving to improve benefits such as disability benefits, death benefits, scholarships, towing services, identity theft protection, and access to child care services, among others. The union has also pioneered an online college degree program where members can earn a tuition free associates degree that is recognized by every state university in the country, and a national 401 (k) program. Members are also able to participate in a raffle under its student debt reduction program, where thousands of dollars are awarded each year to members who are saddled with crushing, long-term student debt.”

The members present in the auditorium cheered with each statement Cunningham made. And they were just getting warmed up. The applause cascaded into an ovation.

Lanigan, Hepburn and Administration Elected

Continued from page 1

Members lining up to second nomination of the administration’s slate.
Many of those present at the September 25 Local 153 general membership meeting seconded the nomination of the administration’s slate. Here are some of those who seconded the nomination. Top row, left to right: Arthur Barnes, SEIU 32BJ, Carmen Reyes, Knights of Columbus, and Quireece Reneé Spradley, Municipal Credit Union. Middle Row, left to right: Caroline Shreiner, Hofstra University, Stephen Parker, PSE&G, and Sharon Jones-Williams, UFT. Bottom Row, left to right: Crystal Barino, HTC Benefit Funds, Renell Torain, Depository Trust Company, and Lovetta Kerr, DC 37.
MEMBER THE LOCAL 153 ADMINISTRATION

Members of the Local 153 Administration taking the oath of office on Tuesday, October 2.

<table>
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<th>BUSINESS MANAGER</th>
<th>PRESIDENT</th>
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<td>Richard Lanigan</td>
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<td>Myra Hepburn</td>
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<th>RECORDING-SECRETARY</th>
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<td>Patrick Flanagan</td>
<td>Nora Avila</td>
<td>Lorraine Fay</td>
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<td>General Vision Services</td>
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<td>Anna Gallo</td>
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|                         | Frances Avnet       | Herman Davis            |
|                         | Hofstra University  | NYHTC Funds             |
|                         | Caroline Herrmann   | Philip Holmgren          |
|                         | County of Passaic   | Segal Company            |
|                         | Tolbert Lapomarel   | Martha Larose            |
|                         | Hilton Garden Inn   | Whitney Museum           |
|                         | Kathy Neville       | Margaret Noonan          |
|                         | Knights of Columbus | Fordham University       |
|                         | Brenda St. John     | Shawn St. Luce           |
|                         | BC/BS HealthNow/Buffalo | Manhattan College |
|                         | Danette Torres      | Robin Williamson         |
|                         | SEIU 32 BJ Funds    | AFSCME, DC 37            |
|                         | Anthony Walters     |                         |
|                         | EmblemHealth        |                         |
|                         |                     |                         |
|                         |                     |                         |

|                         | Gil Yellinek        |                         |
|                         | Amalgamated Bank    |                         |
Lanigan, Hepburn and Administration Elected to Lead Local 153

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when Cunningham began her concluding remarks to her nomination of the administration’s slate.

“We are fortunate to have a leader with the knowledge and experience of Richard Lanigan,” she said. “He was also elected in 2016 as the fifth president in OPEIU history. He is an outstanding leader elected to the National AFL-CIO Executive Council, representing over 12 million members. In addition, he represents Local 153 on the New York State AFL-CIO Executive Board. We are very proud to have him in these important positions.”

Cunningham’s closing remarks brought the auditorium to its feet.

“In these difficult times, when employers and our own government seek to undermine union rights and job security, Local 153 is in the legislative corridors of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut and in Washington, DC, and even in the streets to maintain our rights,” she said. “Whether it’s contracts, grievances, benefits, organizing or political activism, Local 153 has been there for us. Now is the time—tonight—for us to be there for them. I urge everyone to support the nominated slate.”

Everyone did. In fact, many other members then approached the microphone to second the nomination of the Local 153 administration slate. They included Caroline Shreiner, Hofstra University; Stephen Parker, PSE&G; Quireece Reneé Spradley, MCU; Sharon Jones-Williams, UFT; Lavetta Kerr, DC 37; Glenroy Scrubb, DC 37; Crystal Barino, HTC; Arthur Barnes, SEIU 32-BJ; Renelle Torain, Depository Trust Company; Pansy Royal, Union Health Center; Gary Wong, SEIU 32-BJ; Keith Jefferson, Equity

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Following the election, retired Business Manager Michael Goodwin stepped down from the dais to allow the new Secretary-Treasurer, Myra Hepburn, to take her seat. Goodwin received a warm ovation of appreciation for his historical 58-year career at Local 153. Lanigan expressed appreciation for the vote of confidence that he and the administration had just received. A raffle was then held for members in attendance.

At the conclusion of the meeting, many of the members in attendance remained to speak personally with members of the new administration. The next Local 153 membership meeting will be held on January 15, 2019, at Gertrude Lane Auditorium, 305 West 43rd Street, mezzanine level.

Monique Davis, Yvette Jackson and Grace Adams-Cunningham were among the members from Emblem Health at the meeting. They are joined here by Tolbert Lapomarel, Hilton Garden Inn.

Members from the Warwick Hotel thanking Michael Goodwin for his 58 years of service to Local 153, OPEIU, and the Hotel Trades Council.

Monique Davis, Yvette Jackson and Grace Adams-Cunningham were among the members from Emblem Health at the meeting. They are joined here by Tolbert Lapomarel, Hilton Garden Inn.

Continued from page 4

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The 2018 Labor Day Parade was a great way for union members to show their solidarity and to tell the public the issues that are important to working families. Clockwise, from upper left: Among those riding on the Local 153 float are the Parkers; left to right: Ayisha, Afix, Julie and Stephen; Warming up for the march are Jasmin Hernandez, Local 153 President Steve Turkeltaub, Local 153 Business Representative Nick Galipeau and Doris Hernandez; Local 153 Business Manager Richard Lanigan greets Lee Vann, Mary Short and Stephen Parker; Secretary-Treasurer Myra Hepburn, President Steve Turkeltaub and Business Manager Richard Lanigan leading the way; the Local 153 float makes its way up Fifth Avenue; The Federation of Catholic Teachers had a strong presence at the parade.
In an era when it is estimated that by the end of their careers more than 65% of American workers will have worked for at least eight different employers, it is indeed unusual to find someone who has spent 51 years working for just one employer. But Michael Goodwin did just that. He spent 51 years working for a single employer—and that employer was the membership of Local 153 and OPEIU.

Goodwin began his career in labor in 1960, as a member of Local 153 working for the Seafarers International Union. He rose through the ranks, becoming a Local 153 Organizer in 1967 and a Business Representative in 1968, eventually rising to the positions of Local 153 Business Manager and President of the Office & Professional Employees International Union (OPEIU).

During that time he made an indelible impression on countless members of the union, many of whom sent letters of appreciation to this publication praising Goodwin’s advocacy on their behalf. Goodwin was a fine negotiator, too, having settled an almost immeasurable number of contracts at Local 153 and OPEIU. He was also known as a wise counselor to other labor leaders.

“I had the privilege of working with Michael Goodwin for more than 20 years, and I can tell you it was an education,” said Peter Ward, President of the New York Hotel Trades Council, the collective bargaining representative for more than 2,700 Local 153 members.

“When I first became President of the Hotel Trades Council Mike Goodwin provided me with sound advice on more than a few occasions,” Ward said. “I was new to union leadership and Mike was always extremely generous with me in providing his sage counsel. He always had enough time for me and the members of OPEIU, Local 153, and the Hotel Trades Council.”

Ward called Goodwin one of the most dependable people he knew through the labor movement. “Throughout the years I was helped with the knowledge that I could always rely on Michael Goodwin to answer a question or make a wise suggestion to tackle a thorny issue,” Ward told the HTC’s publication, Hotel Voice. “None of us can ever forget that he has had an exemplary and in fact historic career in organized labor.”

“It’s no secret that Michael Goodwin was and is my mentor,” said Local 153 Business Manager Richard Lanigan. “He taught me much and he taught me well. I owe more to Michael Goodwin than could ever by measured.”

The national AFL-CIO was equally praiseworthy of Goodwin’s career. “Michael Goodwin. Goodwin has constantly and creatively found ways to organize in both traditional and nontraditional industries, growing OPEIU during his 21 years as international president,” the Federation said in a statement regarding Goodwin’s retirement from the Executive Board of that 12-million member labor organization. “He has been a great asset to the members of OPEIU, the American labor movement and working people everywhere. He has introduced the concept of providing membership benefits, paid for directly out of the union treasury, as a means to provide more for existing members and to attract new members.”

The AFL-CIO’s statement added, “As a member of the Executive Council, Goodwin served as vice chair of the Civil and Human Rights Committee and made important contributions to the committees on health and safety, ethical practices, legislation and policy, women workers and special assignments relating to Article XX and XXI, among others.”

Goodwin was first elected Secretary-Treasurer of Local 153 more than four decades ago, in 1978. A year later, he began serving as an OPEIU International Vice President and in 1994 was elected President of OPEIU. In 1995, he was elected to the Executive Council of the AFL-CIO. Goodwin served as a Director of the AFL-CIO’s Union Privilege Program and, for many years, as Secretary-Treasurer of the New York Hotel Trades Council, as well as a Vice President of the New York State AFL-CIO and the New York City Central Labor Council.

During his career Goodwin received many honors. He was the 1974 recipient of OPEIU’s Henderson B. Douglas

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FCT Is Fighting for a Contract!

As this issue of Local 153 News was being printed, the Federation of Catholic Teachers (FCT) was negotiating with the Association of Catholic Schools (ACS) for a new contract to replace the agreement that recently expired. The ACS represents most of the Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of New York, making this a crucial contract negotiation that will affect more than 2,000 teachers. At the same time, the FCT is also negotiating contracts with two Catholic High Schools that are not part of the ACS—La Salle Academy and John S. Burke High School. Here, teachers rally at the annual Alfred E. Smith Dinner, an event associated with the Archdiocese of New York. We are pleased to note that in addition to the many teachers that attended the event television news crews also came. “We know that much hard work lies ahead for us at the FCT,” said FCT President Julia Pignataro at the rally, “but we are determined to get fair contracts for our members even if it means more rallies like this one.”

Michael Goodwin: An Extraordinary Career in Labor

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Memorial Award, the union’s highest award for organizing, and the Paul Hall Award of Merit, honoring him for his important contributions to the development of the labor movement.

In 1995, Goodwin received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, awarded to outstanding American citizens who have distinguished themselves as members of a specific ethnic group.

Looking back on his career Goodwin mentioned two things of which he is most proud. He takes pride in introducing the labor movement to the program of using union treasuries to provide additional benefits to members and their families. Indeed, there are more than a dozen benefits to Local 153 members that are now provided this way. Goodwin is also proud of fostering diversity in the administrations of OPEIU and Local 153.

In his retirement Goodwin will act as a consultant for Local 153 and will continue to serve as president of the American Labor Museum/Botto House.

While Goodwin only listed two accomplishments in which he took pride, members of Local 153 can certainly add many others. We know all members join Local 153 News in congratulating Michael Goodwin on an historic and accomplished career in organized labor.
Local 153 Membership Benefits

► **DEATH BENEFIT**
$5,000 Death Benefit + Additional $2,000 OPEIU Total $7,000.
$5,000 AD&D Benefit + Additional $2,000 OPEIU Total $7,000. (Death by accident total $14,000).

Eligibility – Membership in good standing with payment of dues for 12 months during the last 14-month period prior to death, exclusive of the month of death.

For more information, please call 212-741-8251

► **SUPPLEMENTAL DISABILITY BENEFITS**
Supplementary Disability – Flat once-a-year Benefit will be paid to a member in good standing with 12 months membership as follows:
- 6-12 Weeks – Maximum of $300
- 13-18 Weeks – Maximum of $600
- 19-24 Weeks – Maximum of $900
- 25 Weeks or more – Maximum of $1,200

For more information, please call 212-741-8250

► **TOWING BENEFIT**
Two towing/service calls per year for members and family living in the same household, valued at up to $80 each. You will need a “producer code” for “plan letter C”.

For information, call 212-741-8270

For towing and service call information, call 800-617-2677

► **401 (K) NATIONAL PLAN**
OPEIU has established a voluntary 401 (k) program that charges considerably less management fees than standard 401 (k) plans. Members will be able to enroll in this benefit shortly.

► **STUDENT DEBT REDUCTION PROGRAM**
Students with $10,000 or more of outstanding student debt have an opportunity each year to reduce the amount they owe.

► **FREE COLLEGE EDUCATION BENEFIT**
Members may earn tuition-free an Associate Degree online through Eastern Gateway Community College. The free college benefit provides degrees in Associate of Arts, Associate of Criminal Justice, Associate of Business Management and Associate of Arts in Early Childhood Education, with more free online degree programs to come. To obtain a brochure about this program call Local 153 at 212-741-8282 and press “7” for member benefits.

► **GENERAL VISION SERVICES “Vision Pass”**
Eyeglasses discount packages for you and your family.

Call the union for a “vision pass” 212-741-8250/8251

► **ENTERTAINMENT**
Discount movie tickets ($8.50/Regal – $10.25/AMC) and theme park discount tickets such as Great Adventure.

Call 212-741-8261

► **DRIVER SAFETY CLASS**
Accident prevention/defensive driving workshop at discount rate for drivers with NY & NJ state licenses.

Call Victoria at 212-675-3210

Members in good standing can take an online course at a low cost of $10 with up to 30 days to complete the course. To register, visit Local 153 website [www.opeiu153.org](http://www.opeiu153.org).

► **AFL-CIO UNION PLUS BENEFITS**
Discounts for services such as dental, vision, health clubs, legal services, pet and car insurance, car rentals, mortgages, etc.

Visit unionplus.org

► **WORKING ADVANTAGE**
Discounts for theater and events, entertainment, sporting events, shopping, travel, etc.

Visit workingadvantage.com

Create an account using ID#: 924400144

► **SCHOLARSHIPS**
Howard Coughlin, John Kelly Labor Studies, Union Privilege and Lavina Michl Wright with grants of up to $6,500.

Visit opeiu153.org

► **DEFENSE FUND**
Where an authorized strike is called, members will receive $290 per week.

► **UNION SUPPORT SERVICES**
For members and their families who suffer with substance abuse, depression or stress.

Call 212-741-8251

► **PUBLICATIONS**
Steward Update, Local 153 News and OPEIU’s White Collar.

► **RETIREE ASSOCIATION**
National Council of Senior Citizens Active on Social & Political Issues.

Call 212-741-8262

► **EDUCATION FOR UPGRADING SKILLS**

Call Victoria at 212-675-3210

[Local 153 Membership Benefits](#)
Local 153 News has featured a Membership Meetings Matter article in each of its last eight editions and there is a good reason for this: Membership meetings matter! These meetings give members the opportunity to have any questions answered and to speak personally with Local 153 officers and Business Representatives. There is always an interesting presentation made that is often of great value to members and their families, and a worthwhile review of benefits is also presented. And, yes, there is a raffle with great prizes like designer headphones, personal computers and other nifty items, and everyone who attends is entitled to participate in the drawing! The members seen in this photo are the raffle winners from the September 25 membership meeting. The next Local 153 membership meeting will be Tuesday, January 15, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. at Gertrude Lane Auditorium, 305 West 44th Street. We hope to see you there!