Local 153 Wins Settlements at MCU Park, AFTRA Health & Retirement and PBM Long Island

Local 153 is happy to announce contract settlements have been reached at ARAMARK at MCU Park, AFTRA Health and Retirement Funds and PBM Long Island.

Assistant Business Manager John Edmonds announced a 5-year contract at ARAMARK at MCU Park, home of the Brooklyn Cyclones minor league baseball team. The agreement contains an average of $1 per hour increases through each year of the contract and an increase in the bonus Local 153 members receive there. The Local 153 members at MCU Park, combined with our members at Yankee Stadium and Citi Field, comprise more than 1,800 members of our union.

Edmonds also announced a settlement at AFTRA Health and Retirement Funds with increases of 2.5% each year and increases to layoff/severance packages.

Business Representative Daniel Ross announced a new contract at PBM Long Island. The agreement contains increases in wages of 3% each year, retroactive to 1/1/2016, as well as increases in pension contributions of 10%, 10% and 10%. The contract also contains improved language for members’ supper stipend and two floating holidays were added.

Here are members employed by ARAMARK at MCU Park celebrating their new five-year agreement.
By Michael Goodwin, Business Manager

Bumbling Blather

More than 80 million people watched the first presidential debate of 2016 between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump on Monday, September 26 at Hofstra University in Hempstead, New York (where employees are represented by Local 153).

It was clear to all impartial observers that Hillary Clinton won unquestionably. Her questions regarding Trump's taxes and wealth, his abusive references to a beauty contest winner and citing federal lawsuits against Trump for not renting to minorities were stunning. Trump was so off-balance that he often did not reply or said something stupid like "not paying taxes is smart." It's not only not smart, but offensive to all of the millions of hard working Americans who pay taxes every day. As Hillary Clinton said the following day, "If not paying taxes is smart, what does that make the rest of us?"

The New York Daily News showed a picture of a shocked Hillary Clinton on the front page of its September 27 edition which they called "the face of the nation." The picture was given this designation because so many Americans felt exactly the same way. The newspaper referred to Trump's responses as "bumbling blather."

Election Day is quickly approaching and your efforts will be crucial in deciding who our next president will be. This election will impact the future, not only of union families, but of every American across the country.

Hillary Clinton has spent her entire life striving to better the lives of working families. From her early days expanding children's health care to advocating for a living wage and access to paid sick leave, Hillary Clinton has been fighting for working people. She will continue to fight and see to it that we will invest in our country's crumbling bridges and highways and creating good paying jobs that will help our economy to grow. She will oppose bad trade deals like the Trans-Pacific Partnership and will fight to make sure American workers are empowered by the global economy. In turn, we must make sure that Hillary Clinton wins the November election to ensure that union families continue to have a champion in the White House.

To the contrary, Donald Trump has spent his entire life taking advantage of working families. From supporting union-busting laws to stifling the people who work for him, Donald Trump only looks out for himself. He thinks wages in America are "too high" and manufactures his own products in low wage countries like Bangladesh and China. Trump has said he would do away with unions completely and that he supports "Right-to-Work" laws that weaken unions, drive down wages and take power away from working people. Donald Trump does not support working families and, therefore, we can't afford to support him.

OPEIU Local 153 members believe that Hillary Clinton is the best choice for working people. She will fight to improve the lives of working families here in New York, the New York metropolitan tri-state area and across the country. You must get involved in this election, get your family involved and remember to vote for Hillary Clinton on November 8. Hillary Clinton has been endorsed by OPEIU International, OPEIU Local 153, the national AFL-CIO and almost every labor body in the United States. All of these organizations have examined the positions of both candidates and have come to the clear and unambiguous conclusion that Hillary Clinton is the best choice for working people.

In previous columns, I pointed out that the reason the Democrats lost elections in 2010 and 2014 was not because the Republicans got more votes—they didn't. It was because Democrats didn't show up due to lack of enthusiasm. Working people cannot afford to have that happen again in 2016—too much is at stake. Every eligible voter must take the time and show up and vote on November 8 or surely we all will pay a heavy price. We encourage you to follow the recommendations of your union leadership and vote your best interest in the November 8 election.
Members WIN New Contract at Amalgamated Warbasse Houses

After months of intense negotiations focused primarily on contributions to the Local 153 Pension Fund, the union and Amalgamated Warbasse Houses in Brooklyn, New York reached an agreement on a new 3-year deal.

The contract includes wage increases of 3% each year, $35 a week increases in contributions to the Local 153 Pension Fund bringing the weekly amount up to $141.72 on May 1, 2018, and health care coverage with no employee contributions over the contract term. Numerous regressive employer demands involving overtime pay, employee’s birthday, personal days, vacations, promotions and supper money were withdrawn when the union objected.

In addition, health care coverage will now be provided by the SEIU, Local 32 B-J Health Fund. Amalgamated Warbasse Houses has a relationship with SEIU, whose members are also employees of AWH in another bargaining unit. The new health care plan is noticeably better than the existing coverage.

The union won language in the contract stating that nothing in the agreement relating to an employee’s rights under the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) shall preclude an employee, the union, or the employer from filing an unfair labor practice with the NLRB. The employer was seeking to negotiate that the only remedy available to resolve unfair labor practices was arbitration or the NLRB, not both. The union strongly disagreed and ultimately persuaded the employer to change its mind.

Shop Steward Ellen Burns assisted Business Manager Michael Goodwin in the negotiations. The contract was unanimously ratified on August 30, 2016.
Local 153 Celebrates Labor Day in Manhattan, Buffalo and New Jersey

Local 153 officers and members celebrated Labor Day at three different locations this year. In the top photo are officers and members gathering at the Local 153 float for the Labor Day parade in Manhattan, many of them wearing pro-Hillary Clinton t-shirts; in the top right photo are members assembling at the Local 153 float for the Labor Day march in Buffalo, New York; bottom row, from left to right, are officers and members marching in the Labor Day Parade in New Jersey, including, OPEIU President and Local 153 Secretary-Treasurer Richard Lanigan, President Steve Turkeltaub, Senior Business Representative Seth Goldstein, Business Manager Michael Goodwin and Business Representative Dan Ross. The Federation of Catholic Teachers marching up Fifth Avenue in the New York Labor Day Parade. Holding the FCT banner are President Julia Pignataro and Secretary-Treasurer Joanne Perrotta; and Business Manager Michael Goodwin speaking at the American Labor Museum/Botto House in New Jersey.
Membership Meetings Matter

The September 20 Local 153 membership meeting featured a review of benefits by Local 153 Business Manager Michael Goodwin. Secretary-Treasurer Richard Lanigan who two months earlier had been elected President of OPEIU presented a proclamation and plaque honoring Victor Wallach, a 60-year union member. In addition there was another exciting raffle with great prizes such as an Acer laptop computer.

As we have said many times before, membership meetings are a perfect way to learn more about your union benefits, receive answers to any questions you have and meet personally with Local 153 officers and Business Representatives.

All members who attended the September 20 meeting received a raffle ticket. A drawing was held at the end of the meeting, with members winning really great prizes.

Local 153 will have another special presentation, as well as another raffle with great prizes, at its next membership meeting, Tuesday, January 17, at 6:00 p.m. at Gertrude Lane Auditorium, 305 West 44th Street. All Local 153 members are invited to attend this meeting!

Local 153 member Victor Wallach, a Local 153 shop steward at NYU receives a proclamation saluting his “Lifetime of Dedication and Service” for his 60 years as a union member and 30 years as a shop steward. From left to right are Local 153 Secretary-Treasurer Richard Lanigan, Victor Wallach, Business Representative Dan Ross, Local 153 President Steve Turkeltaub and Business Manager Michael Goodwin.

Here are the members who won raffle prizes at the September 20 Local 153 membership meeting. Richard Tom, Trump International Hotel, who won a Fitbit Watch; Local 153 President Steve Turkeltaub, Business Manager Michael Goodwin, Edsom Greenwood, Yankee Stadium, who won a Nikon Digital Camera; Dazzare Jefferson, Yankee Stadium, who won a pair of Beats in-ear Headphones, Nadine Parker, General Vision Services, who won an iPod Touch; Candace Tannis, General Vision Services, who won a Wireless Home Speaker; Caroline Herrmann, Passaic County, who won an Acer Laptop Computer, and Secretary-Treasurer Richard Lanigan.
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

► **WORKERS COMPENSATION/SUPPLEMENTARY DISABILITY**
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 212-741-8251

► **TOWING BENEFIT**
Two towing/service calls per year for members and family living in the same household, valued at up to $100 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

► **IDENTITY THEFT PROTECTION**
A fully-managed identity theft restoration and monitoring program provided to members of Local 153 in good standing.

To register, call 855-990-0994 or visit local153opeiu.com

► **METRODENT**
35% Discount on participating dentists. Benefit to all current members in good standing.

Visit asonet.com. Select member’s plan Local 153 Discount Dental Plan to view participating dentists and rates.

Call 212-741-8250/8251

► **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 (now $8.50/Regal – $9/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.

► **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

For more information, please call 212-741-8251

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Learn more at UnionPlus.org/ATT

All program plans for new and existing customers may require a new two-year contract. This offer cannot be combined with any other discounts. Qualifying monthly data plan required.
Who’s Who in Local 153

Michael Goodwin
Business Manager

Michael Goodwin served as OPEIU president from March 1994 until his resignation in December 2015 to focus on the daily operations as business manager of Local 153 in New York. At that time, he was appointed International vice president of Region II to fill the position left vacant by his successor, Richard Lanigan. Goodwin joined OPEIU in 1960 as a mailroom clerk working for the Seafarers Vacation Plan. Rising through the ranks of Local 153, he was elected secretary-treasurer in 1977 and business manager in 1994. Serving as an International vice president since 1979, he became OPEIU president in 1994 and was re-elected at six successive conventions.

Goodwin was elected to the AFL-CIO Executive Council in 1995, and also holds the following positions: president, American Labor Museum/Botto House National Landmark; secretary-treasurer, New York Hotel Trades Council, AFL-CIO; vice president, New York State AFL-CIO; vice president, New York City Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO; and board of directors, AFL-CIO Union Privilege Program.

Among his many other honors, Goodwin is the 1995 recipient of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, awarded to outstanding American citizens from all backgrounds who have distinguished themselves as members of a specific ethnic group. At the 1974 OPEIU Convention, Goodwin received the Henderson B. Douglas Memorial Award, the union’s highest award for organizing.

Goodwin was elected to the AFL-CIO Executive Council in 1995, and also holds the following positions: president, American Labor Museum/Botto House National Landmark; secretary-treasurer, New York Hotel Trades Council, AFL-CIO; vice president, New York State AFL-CIO; vice president, New York City Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO; and board of directors, AFL-CIO Union Privilege Program.

Richard Lanigan
Secretary-Treasurer

Richard Lanigan has been the secretary-treasurer of Local 153 since 1994. In addition, the OPEIU Executive Board named Lanigan to serve as president of the International Union, effective Dec. 15, 2015, following the retirement of Michael Goodwin from that post. Lanigan was elected president of OPEIU this past summer at the 2016 convention. After working his way through college as a union member, Lanigan joined OPEIU Local 153 as an organizer in 1980. Soon he was promoted to business representative, where he gained experience negotiating contracts. In 1987, he enrolled in law school as an evening student and upon admission to the bar served for a time as assistant to the OPEIU general counsel.

In 1994, he was elected secretary-treasurer of Local 153, OPEIU’s largest local union. Elected OPEIU vice president in 1994, Lanigan worked with OPEIU local unions facilitating mergers, conducting hearings, filing unfair labor practice charges, and assisting with affiliations, strikes, contract campaigns and grievances. He has chaired the Constitution and Laws committee at seven OPEIU conventions, and taught at OPEIU educational conferences and conventions. He negotiated on behalf of several OPEIU local unions under a master agreement in the maritime industry for 20 years. Representing OPEIU local unions in jurisdictional disputes under Article XX of the AFL-CIO Internal Disputes Procedure, he won many decisions including the Hawai’i Nurses’ Association case in 2010, which determined that 4,000 nurses could be members of OPEIU.

Lanigan serves as a trustee on several benefit funds, including those of OPEIU and Local 153. He was certified in 2013 by the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans under its Trustees Masters Program.

Lanigan received OPEIU’s highest honor for organizing, the Henderson B. Douglas Memorial Award, in 1998 and again in 2005. In 2007, he received the OPEIU Silver Organizing Award. He has been honored by the NAACP and the Boy Scouts and has received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. The 2013 OPEIU Convention recognized his work representing local unions regarding unfair labor practices and Article XX. In 2014, the Federation of Catholic Teachers presented him with its “Diamond” award. During 2013-2014, he represented OPEIU in the inaugural AFL-CIO National Labor Leadership Initiative program.
Local 153 Officers and Representatives

Steve Turkeltaub
President

Gwendolyn Rushing
Vice President

Wilma Artau-Banda
Recording-Secretary

John Edmonds
Assistant Business Manager

Nick Galipeau
Director of Organizing

Patricia Hoffman
Senior Business Representative

Myra Hepburn
Senior Business Representative

Seth Goldstein
Senior Business Representative

Jennifer Paez
Hotel Representative

Daniel Ross
Business Representative

Robert McClennan
Business Representative
Local 153 Administrative Staff

Jacqueline Nieves
Assistant to the Business Manager

Catherine Bostelman
Administrative Assistant

Sandra Datnarain
Bookkeeping Department

Glennis Vizcaino
Dues Department Supervisor

Doris Hernandez
Dues Department

Jasmin Hernandez
Administrative Assistant

Robert Fiegener
Facilities/Mailroom

The next edition of Local 153 News will contain photos of the Union’s Trustees and Executive Board Members. The Trustees are, in alphabetical order: Patrick Flanagan, Millie Sanchez and William Uprichard. The Executive Board Members are, in alphabetical order: Martha Alvarez, Frances Avnet, Maryellen Bridgwood, Jean Castrogiovanni, Kathleen Cohen, Herman Davis, Anna Gallo, Caroline Herrmann, Philip Holmgren, Cindy Klumb, Brenda Knight, Richard Knowles, Tolbert Lapomarel, Peter McGurgan, Judith Morales, Kathy Neville, Margaret Noonan, Brenda St. John, Eugene Taylor, Jessica Timo, Danette Torres, Anthony Walters, Robin Williamson and Gil Yellinek
Local 153 Benefit Funds

George Bueno
Benefit and Pension Funds Director

Eileen Dupont
Benefit Funds Supervisor

Bernadette Smith
Pension Fund Supervisor

Lina Then
Benefit Funds

Robert Smith
Benefit Funds

Local 153 Retirees Association

Charles Ponti, Sr.
President

Juan Alvarez
Assistant to the President

Maryann Brandt
Secretary-Treasurer
Christie Vetoes New Jersey $15/hr Minimum Wage

Chris Christie dampened the spirits of low wage employees in New Jersey on August 30, when he vetoed a bill that would have increased the minimum wage in that state to $15 an hour over five years. New York and California remain the only two states that have adopted the $15/hr minimum.

As could be expected, Christie was smug when he issued the veto, saying it was “a really radical increase” that would raise wages elsewhere in the state and “make doing business in New Jersey unaffordable.” Seriously, he said that. He said that he was opposed to something that would raise wages elsewhere in New Jersey. It is a far cry from the famous words of President John F. Kennedy, regarding an increase in the minimum wage: “A rising tide lifts all boats.”

While Christie refuses to help New Jersey’s working poor, the state’s Democrats have other ideas. In response to Christie’s veto, State Assembly Speaker Vincent Prieto and State Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney announced that Democrats would introduce an amendment to New Jersey’s constitution to raise the minimum wage in steps to $15 an hour by 2021.

The Democrats did the same thing three years ago, when they staged a referendum on raising the state’s minimum wage by $1 an hour and included an annual adjustment to consider any increases in the cost of living. Voters approved the 2013 measure by a healthy margin and it has not done any of the damage to New Jersey’s economy that Christie predicted. This is what led so many in New Jersey to join the movement called “Fight for $15.”

Regarding Christie’s veto of the recent legislation to increase the minimum wage to $15 an hour, Analilia Mejia, director of New Jersey Working Families Alliance, told the New York Times that the measure would have raised the pay of about 975,000 New Jersey workers. She added that Christie’s veto was not at all surprising. “It’s Chris Christie at his worst,” she said.

“An increase in the minimum wage would do so much to help those who go to work every day and yet earn wages that fall below the poverty level,” said New Jersey AFL-CIO President Charles Wowkanich. “We will not stop working toward the goal of an increase in the minimum wage.”

The economies of New York and California have done very well since each state enacted a graduated increase in the minimum wage to $15 an hour. Meanwhile, New Jersey’s economy is languishing near the bottom of the 50 states, meaning that Christie’s veto could hurt not just minimum wage workers, but all people in the Garden State.