OMCE Wins Big for Members

The Organization of Management Confidential (MC) Employees, known as OMCE, which is the New York State public sector affiliate of Local 153, has achieved its pay parity and equity goal for the MC workforce. OMCE President Barbara Zaron stated, “It has been a long struggle, but with the ongoing assistance from Local 153, we now have pay fairness coming to our members.”

The loss of 3% and 4% general salary increases in 2009 and 2010 respectively, put MC employees into a salary schedule that became uncoordinated with all other units of New York State employees who received those increases.

New York State MC employees lost their rights to a contract in 1972 when the then newly enacted “Taylor Law” was amended to exclude them from collective bargaining to bring that state statute into compliance with US Supreme Court decisions on MC employees.

This pay fight beginning in 2009 started with a failed federal court challenge and then landed in the halls of the legislature. Twice OMCE won legislation calling for a Pay Commission to deal with the MC pay issue. Although Governor Cuomo vetoed both bills, the call and need for MC pay justice grew stronger and was finally heeded.

Legislators, angered over their own stalemate on compensation, supported the OMCE grass roots and public relations campaign for pay justice and the Governor took the steps to fix the MC pay mess. In 2015, the Executive budget outlined a four-year plan to restore lost wages cumulative of 7% (2% in 2015, 2% in 2016, 2% in 2017 and 1% in 2018 state fiscal years). Additionally, OMCE won 2% COLA (cost of living) general salary increases for each state fiscal year 2014-2018, which was finalized in this year’s recently passed New York State budget.

OMCE Executive Director Joe Sano said, “OMCE never gave up and never gave in. Our OPEIU, Local 153 and AFL-CIO affiliation increased our strength and our message of pay justice. This achievement of a cumulative 17% of general salary increases for 2014-2019 is living proof that together we can do what we cannot do alone. Thank you, Richard Lanigan, Michael Goodwin and the Local 153 leadership team and members for their assistance and support!”

New Benefit Announced! Student Debt Reduction Program

OPEIU and Local 153 are happy to announce a new benefit: the Student Debt Reduction Program. Members will find the rules and eligibility requirements for the OPEIU Student Debt Reduction Program—as well as an application—on pages 13-14 of this edition of Local 153 News.

This new benefit provides five awards of $2,500 each year to a member who has completed an associate or undergraduate degree and who can demonstrate they have at least $10,000 in student debt and their account is current. The application deadline for this great new benefit is June 30, so hurry! For full details, turn to page 13.

See Business Manager Michael Goodwin’s column on page 2 for additional new benefits!
Three New Benefits Announced

During the last year, the International Union has initiated three new programs that benefit members in a significant way – an opportunity to earn a free college education, participation in a student debt reduction program and an OPEIU National 401(k) plan. These three new benefits were inspired by OPEIU International President Richard Lanigan, who also serves as Secretary-Treasurer of Local 153.

The free college education benefit is through Eastern Gateway Community College, a respected accredited academic institution, with classes offered every 8 weeks to members and their families. This benefit allows the student to earn an Associate Degree online, which is recognized by every state college in the United States. There are no out-of-pocket costs for members and their families, as costs are covered after federal, state and employer grants are applied. Even if the member or family member is not eligible for federal, state or employer financial aid, the program will cover them through a “free college scholarship”. Earned credits are transferrable from one state to another.

The online degree program includes an Associate of Arts, Associate of Criminal Justice, Associate of Business Management and Associate of Arts in Early Childhood Education. More online degree programs will be offered as the program matures. The ultimate goal is to provide members with a broad range of degrees from which to choose.

Online learning is designed to accommodate a student’s individual needs. The online learning site lets a student set individual goals and schedule how quickly they want to complete their degree. A student can go back to school while continuing to work, study and complete assignments on their own schedule, and log in anywhere, anywhere there’s an internet connection. The best benefit of all is that “it’s free”!

Please contact the union office at 212-741-8282 and press “7” for membership benefits to obtain a brochure containing more information about the program.

The Student Debt Reduction Program (SDRP) was established to address the ongoing student debt of OPEIU members with initial grants of $2,500 each to five members. To be eligible to participate in the annual drawing to be held in July of each year, a member with at least 12 months of good standing in the union, must demonstrate that they have completed an Associate Degree or Undergraduate Degree, have at least $10,000 in outstanding student debt, are current with student loan payments and have completed an application for arrival at the union office no later than June 30. Program details and an application are included in this edition of Local 153 News on pages 13 and 14.

The union urges bargaining committees to make proposals in negotiations for employers to provide funds for student debt reduction. Specific contract language can be obtained from your Business Representative or the union.

OPEIU has also established a national 401(k) plan for members. The union-sponsored plan ensures that members pay much smaller fees and includes a lifetime annuity option and other features that make it a much better choice for union members than traditional plans. President Lanigan has stated that, “Over the average worker’s lifetime, they will pay the equivalent of three years’ salary in fees in traditional 401(k) plans. OPEIU’s plan will reduce those fees substantially.” The OPEIU National 401(k) plan will endeavor to have overall fees in the lowest 10% of fees for plans within its asset size range.

Transfer of funds and rollovers into the new OPEIU National 401(k) plan will be seamless and low-cost and merging of existing plans into it can easily be accomplished. The plan will have automatic enrollment and escalation options and an equal number of management and labor trustees.

The plan is offered to all OPEIU Local 153 members covered by collective bargaining and will be professionally managed.

The union also urges bargaining committees to make proposals in negotiations for employers to contribute to the plan. Specific contract language can be obtained from your Business Representative or the union.

OPEIU and Local 153 will continue its efforts to find new ways to bring additional membership benefits to you!
Benefit and Pension Funds 
Director George Bueno Retires

George Bueno, the Director of Local 153’s Benefit and Pension Funds, has retired, effective June 1, 2017.

Bueno joined Local 153 in 1987 as controller. In 1996, he was appointed Director of the union’s health, pension and long term disability funds. In that capacity, he became responsible for the administration of welfare and pension benefit funds with assets of $200 million and more than 11,000 participants. In 2008, George was named the Director of the OPEIU Pension Fund. He also serves as union trustee on the Emblem Health Retirement Plans and the Perishable Food Industry Pension Fund.

Bueno served as a board member of the New York Metro Area chapter of the International Society of Certified Employee Benefit Specialists (ISCEBS), and served as its treasurer in 2004, vice president in 2005 and was elected president in 2006. In September 2003, Bueno was elected as a board member of the Association of Benefit Administrators, and was elected as its treasurer in December 2004. He also serves as a member of the board of directors of the Working Theater, a theater company dedicated to producing plays about working people.

Bueno earned a Bachelor of Science in accounting from Brooklyn College of the City University of New York. He holds the Certified Employee Benefits Specialist (CEBS) designation, and has successfully completed the Certified Public Accountant examination. He has been married for 30 years to Antonia Bueno, and they have two daughters, Amanda and Christina, a son, George Jr.; and a grandson, Ethan.

At the most recent Local 153 general membership meeting, Bueno received an appreciative round of applause when Business Manager Michael Goodwin introduced him to the audience and thanked him for a job well done!
Membership Meetings Matter!

New Benefits Announced!

At a well-attended general membership meeting on May 16, Local 153 members learned about an inexpensive CUNY program, were introduced to several new benefits, met with officers and business representatives and had a chance to win some great raffle prizes. It was a perfect example of why membership meetings matter.

In his Business Manager’s report, Michael Goodwin said that the union represented members in 182 shops and that he had recently come to appreciate even more through personal experience, how hard the work of a Local 153 Business Representative is.

He noted that the only way for the union to survive was to organize, recalling the “organize or perish” adage. He saluted Local 153’s Director of Organizing Nick Galipeau, saying he had successfully organized five consecutive bargaining units in the last year!

Goodwin also reviewed members’ benefits, among other things, reminding members that the towing benefit applies to all household members.

Continuing his discussion of benefits, Goodwin gave a shout out to OPEIU President and Local 153 Secretary-Treasurer Richard Lanigan, saying that he was responsible for three new benefits for members. Goodwin also introduced Benefit and Pension Funds Director George Bueno, saying that he would be retiring shortly, and Bueno received a nice hand from the members.

Goodwin concluded his report by saying that Local 153 was endorsing Bill de Blasio for re-election as Mayor of New York. Goodwin reviewed the labor-friendly and pro-family policies of the de Blasio administration and said that the Mayor clearly deserved four more years.

Business Manager Goodwin’s report was followed by a presentation by Laurie Kellogg, representing the Murphy Institute, a division of CUNY School of Professional Studies.

Ms. Kellogg explained the classes and degrees available from the school, noting that classrooms were located at 44th Street and Sixth Avenue and at Cornell’s School of Industrial and Labor Relations at 16 East 34th Street. She said that classes were available at both the college level and the masters degree tier. Among the classes available are Worker History, Collective Bargaining, Public Policy and Organizing.

Several members asked questions of Ms. Kellogg following her presentation and she remained in the meeting hall to distribute information about the school, which charges...
Membership Meetings Matter!

New Benefits Announced!

Continued from page 4

tuition rates at CUNY’s reasonable levels and has financial aid and scholarship programs available to help members pay for their education. Members who are interested in attending classes at the Murphy Institute can visit the school online at sps.cuny.edu/academics/jsmi or call Ms. Kellogg at 718-440-1550.

Secretary-Treasurer Richard Lanigan began his report by thanking Laurie Kellogg and said that OPEIU offers the John Kelly Labor Studies scholarship for anyone who is interested in labor studies.

He mentioned an article from the New York Times from May 12 that explained how pension fund and 401 (k) managers made exorbitant fees. Lanigan said that he began searching for options that put more money in members’ pockets and less money in Wall Street money managers’ coffers. He explained that this is what led to the low-fee OPEIU National 401 (k) benefit that will be launched shortly.

Lanigan mentioned the introduction of another new benefit, free college tuition, pending approval of the OPEIU Executive Board. If the board approves this benefit, it will offer free online college for OPEIU Local 153 members and their families. It’s a Community College, and when members finish there, all credits can be transferred to other colleges.

Another new benefit is a student debt reduction program. Saying that student debt now surpasses credit card debt nationwide, Lanigan said the union’s student debt reduction Continued on page 6

Yankee Stadium employees are well represented at the meeting, some of them are seen here with Local 153 Business Representative Dan Ross and Assistant Business Manager John Edmonds.

Laurie Kellogg of the Murphy Institute telling members of the classes and other resources available.

Local 153 Executive Board Member Cindy Klumb of Pratt Institute meeting with Senior Business Representative Seth Goldstein.

DC 1707 employees Mariana Morales, Rocio Miranda and Romel Cyrus meeting with Local 153 Assistant Business Manager John Edmonds.
Membership Meetings Matter!

New Benefits Announced!

Continued from page 5

Program was already underway. Members can find full details on pages 35-37 of the benefits booklet found at Local 153’s website, opeiu153.org

Lanigan concluded by saying the union is happy that it can offer these new benefits and that there will be more to come in the future!

The meeting concluded with new members being sworn in to the union and a raffle held with great prizes. For a list of raffle winners and their prizes, see the back page of this edition of Local 153 News.

Local 153’s next membership meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 19 at 6:00 p.m. at Gertrude Lane Auditorium, 305 West 44th Street.

Local 153 members employed by UFCW Local 342 in Mineola, NY have won a 3 year contract retroactive to January 16, 2017.

The employees were seeking wage increases and increased Employer contributions to their 401(k) plan. However, inasmuch as the employees recognized that one of the Employer’s major groups, A&P, closed during the last 3 years causing a loss of membership to UFCW Local 342, it was decided to negotiate a wages-only contract. As a result, the members won wage increases as follows:

- Retroactive to January 16, 2017: $29 per employee per week
- Effective January 16, 2018: $29 per employee per week
- Effective January 16, 2019: $29 per employee per week

The negotiating committee consisting of Alba Ramos, Marvin Ghelberg, Lissette Nunez-Guzman and Stacey DeSouza enthusiastically endorsed the agreement.

Workers Memorial Day Observed

The three young women stood on the roof of the building ten stories above the streets of lower Manhattan. They probably said a prayer, and then they held hands tightly. And then they jumped to their deaths. They were followed by dozens of other women. Those who chose not to jump burned to death. A total of 146 women were killed that day, March 25, 1911, in Manhattan, in a fire that raged through the Triangle Shirtwaist Company factory located on the corner of Greene Street and Washington Place.

The women were all young, some only 13 years of age, and they were almost all Italian and Jewish immigrants. They worked as seamstresses, sitting in front of sewing machines for 12 and 16-hour shifts for which they were paid very low wages. They did not die in vain. That's because 106 years later, on March 24, 2017 they were recalled at a memorial service held at the scene of the fire.

One of the reasons the fire took so many lives is because the exit doors to the factory were locked. History has often reported that the doors were sealed to keep the women on the job. But, according to Rose Freedman, the truth is that the doors were locked to keep union organizers off the property. Ms. Freedman, who was the last survivor of the Triangle fire, died in 2001 at the age of 107. She survived the fire but not its horror. She remembered that tragedy every day for the next 90 years of her life, much of which was spent fighting for workplace safety rules.

New York City was understandably horrified by the deaths of 146 of its young women. Calls were made for reform. Those calls took hold and over the years laws were passed to make it easier for unions to organize and to make workplaces much safer. The tragic deaths in 1911 led to a movement that prevented thousands of other tragic workplace deaths in the years that followed.

Today, throughout many buildings in New York there are exit doors with panic bars on them. They are the push bars that allow you to open a door from the inside even when the door is locked on the outside. Panic bars became mandatory because of the Triangle fire. After the fire investigators discovered that the women were unable to open even the few doors that were unlocked because they couldn’t touch the searing doorknobs and there were no fire extinguishers to assist. Today, throughout all buildings and workplaces there are exit signs that can be seen in the dark and even through heavy smoke. These signs became mandatory because of the 146 young women who died in the Triangle fire. Today there are fire extinguishers everywhere in these buildings because there were none at the Triangle factory. And fire department inspectors examine buildings and workplaces frequently, another aftermath of the Triangle fire.

Throughout the country today there are workplace safety laws in place that are in large part a result of the Triangle factory tragedy. As always, New York’s annual observance of this horrific event occurred at the sight of the tragedy—Greene Street and Washington Place, where the building that housed the Triangle factory still stands. NYFD personnel showed how the fire truck ladders of 1911 could only reach the seventh floor. A fire bell was tolled as each of the 146 victims’ names was called out, as hundreds stood in solemn silence in memory of these women—further evidence that they did not die in vain.

ULLICO Celebrates OPEIU and Local 153

In a visit to the union office recently by executives of Union Labor Life Insurance Company (ULLICO), the company’s President, Daniel Wolak and Regional Sales Manager Brian Doherty, presented OPEIU and Local 153 with plaques in recognition of being long time clients of the company, a relationship that extends more than 50 years!

In an email preceding the visit, Wolak stated, “I would like to thank you again for being long time clients and supporters of Ullico. We appreciate the relationship and confidence. We look forward to continuing to provide insurance to your staff and members for years to come.”

Receiving the plaques were Richard Lanigan on behalf of OPEIU (not shown), and Michael Goodwin, Seth Goldstein and George Bueno on behalf of Local 153. The plaques will be proudly displayed in their respective offices. ULLICO has been providing services to unions and their members for more than 90 years!
Local 153 Joins 100 Emerging Leaders

Our union was proud to recently join the A. Phillip Randolph's 100 Emerging Leaders conference. The event helps young people learn from others on how to best utilize individual resources to succeed in careers and to become leaders in their communities.

Germaine Sands, seen here with Local 153 Senior Business Representative Myra Hepburn, who also attended the conference, thanked our union for sponsoring his attendance at the event.

“I am currently a junior in college from the Walt Whitman houses in Brooklyn,” he told Local 153 News. “I am currently majoring in Criminal Justice trying to pursue a career in the FBI because I wish to protect the people of my community. I hope to one day be able to make a change in my community that will positively affect the people that live there.”

“It's because of talented, caring young men and women like Germaine that Local 153 was proud to join this productive and meaningful conference,” said Business Manager Michael Goodwin.

Local 153 Scholarship Winners

Local 153 is happy to announce that there are four Lavina Michl Wright scholarship winners this year. The scholarship recipients are Alison Adamo, whose mother, Grace Adamo, works at Adelphi University; Molly Sonenberg, whose father, Samuel Sonenberg, is an OMCE employee; Kelly Valerio, whose mother, Patti Valerio, works at Adelphi University; and Mariya Kuriakose, whose mother, Gimol James, works at South Beach Psychiatric Hospital.

Lavina Michl Wright scholarships are awarded annually by Local 153. For information on this scholarship program and the others available to Local 153 members please see pages 26-28 in the benefits booklet available on Local 153’s website: [opeiu153.org](http://opeiu153.org)
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 212-741-8251

▲ 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

▲ 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 to reduce the amount they owe. Details and an application are on pages 13-14 of this edition of Local 153 News.

▲ 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.

▲ 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

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Office and Professional Employees International Union, Local 153

Statements of Revenue and Expenses — Cash Basis
For the six months ended December 31, 2016

Mr. Richard Lanigan
Secretary-Treasurer
Office and Professional Employees International Union, Local 153
265 West 14th Street
New York, NY 10011

Dear Mr. Lanigan:

We compiled the statements of revenues and expenses — cash basis of Office and Professional Employees International Union, Local 153 — for the six months ended December 31, 2016, in accordance with standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

GENERAL FUND
Cash balance and investments—July 1, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue Received</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dues</td>
<td>$3,692,701</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initiation Fees</td>
<td>48,414</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health and Pension Funds—Reimbursed Admin. Expenses</td>
<td>76,802</td>
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<tr>
<td>O.P.E.I.U.—Reimbursed Administrative Expenses</td>
<td>109,065</td>
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<tr>
<td>Federation of Catholic School Teachers—Reimbursed Admin. Expenses</td>
<td>19,257</td>
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<tr>
<td>O.P.E.I.U.—FCT Subsidy</td>
<td>135,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disability and Jury</td>
<td>8,628</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transfers from Local 153 GF Reserve Fund</td>
<td>226,415</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sale of Discounted Movie Tickets and Driver Safety Class (Membership Benefit)</td>
<td>10,471</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancel Old Outstanding Checks</td>
<td>4,734</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Revenue Received</td>
<td>4,331,487</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses Paid</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries</td>
<td>776,672</td>
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<tr>
<td>Officers’ and Business Agents’ Expenses</td>
<td>24,205</td>
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<tr>
<td>Automobile Expenses</td>
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<td>Per Capita Taxes:</td>
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<td>Office and Professional Employees International Union</td>
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<td>New York City Central Labor Council</td>
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<td>Dues to Affiliated Organizations</td>
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<td>Arbitration Expenses</td>
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<td>Lost Time Wages</td>
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<td>Conferences and Conventions</td>
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<td>Meeting Hall Rents</td>
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<td>Staff 401(k) Administrative Fees</td>
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<tr>
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<td>223,797</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Island Federation of Labor</td>
<td>2,760</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York City Central Labor Council</td>
<td>20,445</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dues to Affiliated Organizations</td>
<td>6,051</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arbitration Expenses</td>
<td>4,643</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organizing Expenses</td>
<td>929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negotiation Expenses</td>
<td>5,918</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lost Time Wages</td>
<td>6,986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shop Stewards’ Expenses</td>
<td>16,535</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conferences and Conventions</td>
<td>34,733</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting Hall Rents</td>
<td>1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Board and Trustees’ Meetings</td>
<td>19,533</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultants</td>
<td>13,929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rent and Electric</td>
<td>346,947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>20,387</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Machine Maintenance and Rentals</td>
<td>32,908</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Supplies and Printing</td>
<td>17,486</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Office</td>
<td>7,915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postage and Mailing</td>
<td>23,752</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>8,629</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Maintenance and Support</td>
<td>20,906</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flowers</td>
<td>1,060</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auditing and Accounting</td>
<td>21,898</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Automatic Data Processing</td>
<td>2,469</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff 401(k) Administrative Fees</td>
<td>1,187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agency Fee</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Employee Health Benefits
- Life Insurance: 313,284
- Employee Pension Trust Funds: 219,310
- Purchase of Discounted Movie Tickets (Membership Benefit): 7,530
- Member and Retirement Awards: 502
- Tickets, Ads, Contributions, etc.: 39,950
- Educational and Publicity: 17,682
- Transfers to Local 153 Defense Fund: 204,323
- Transfers to Local 153 GF Reserve Fund: 179,338
- Retiree Activities & Expenses: 5,368
- Members Social Activities: 15,861
- Interest: 427
- Holiday Expenses: 4,413
- Employees Withholding Taxes: 189,802
- U.S. Government and NYS Payroll Taxes: 57,659
- Expenses Paid before Withholding Taxes: 4,075,493
- Less: Employees Withholding Tax Deductions: 189,054
- Total Expenses Paid: 3,886,439
- Increase in Cash and Investments: 445,048
- Cash Balance and Investments—December 31, 2016: 520,120

### DISPOSITION OF FUNDS

**HSBC:**
- Checking Account: 458,289
- Settlement Account: 24,089
- Retirees Account: 17,443
- Banco Popular: 19,099
- Petty Cash: 700
- State of Israel Bond (at cost): 500
- Total: 520,120

**DEFENSE FUND**
- Cash Balance—July 1, 2016: 565,246
- Revenue Received:
  - Transfers from Local 153 General Fund: 204,323
  - Interest Income: 465
- Total Revenue Received: 204,788
- Expenses Paid:
  - Membership Benefits:
    - Disability Benefits: 43,200
    - Life Insurance (Death Benefits): 42,842
    - Member Identity Theft Program: 19,548
    - Member Financial Assistance: 4,803
    - Strike Expenses: 2,751
  - Labor Day Expenses: 21,646
  - Office Supplies and Printing: 3,252
  - Payments to Affiliated Organizations: 61,162
  - Tickets, Ads, Contributions, etc.: 15,000
  - Legal and Arbitration: 81,586
  - Consultants: 10,000
  - Actuarial Expenses: 2,500
- Total Expenses Paid: 308,290
- Increase (Decrease) in Cash: (103,502)
- Cash Balance — December 31, 2016: 461,744

### DISPOSITION OF FUNDS

**Amalgamated Bank — Checking Account:** 125,950
**Amalgamated Bank — Savings Account:** 3,117
**Chase Bank — Savings Account:** 223,470
**Amalgamated Bank — Letter of Credit Account:** 352,537
**Amalgamated Bank — Letter of Credit Account:** 82,802
**Amalgamated Bank — Letter of Credit Account:** 26,405
**Total:** 461,744
GOVERNMENT PROGRAM REENACTMENTS

BILLIONS IN FUNDS AVAILABLE

| RESIDENTS | VISITORS | OFFICE WORKERS | VOLUNTEERS |

WERE YOU BELOW CANAL STREET FOR ANY PERIOD OF TIME BETWEEN 9/11/01 AND 5/30/02?

You may be entitled to participate in a US Government program for many cancers and other diseases.

What is the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund?
The Victim Compensation Fund (VCF) was created to provide compensation for any individual (or a personal representative of a deceased individual) who suffered physical harm or was killed as a result of the terrorist-related aircraft crashes of September 11, 2001.

Who is eligible?
First responders, office workers, resident, volunteers, visitors who were below Canal Street for any period of time between 9/11/01 and 5/30/2002. The VCF recently changed their eligibility requirements for World Trade Center-related cancers.

Is there a time limit?
The VCF was recently reauthorized, allowing individuals to submit their claims until December 18, 2020.

OPEIU Local 153 is working in collaboration with Napoli Shkolnik PLLC and Pitta & Basso LLP to represent individuals seeking 9/11 benefits.

Please contact either firm to determine your eligibility.

CALL TO FIND OUT IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE.

NAPOLI LAW
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

(877) WTCHERO
ZADROGACLAIM.COM
360 LEXINGTON AVENUE, 11TH FLOOR
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10017

P&B
PITTA & BAOINE LLP

(844) WTC-COMP
911BENEFITS.COM
120 BROADWAY, 28TH FLOOR
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10271

Local 153 News
New OPEIU Benefit!
Student Debt Reduction Program

All Local 153 members are eligible for a new OPEIU benefit: Student Debt Reduction. This program provides five awards of $2,500 each year to a member who has completed an associate or undergraduate degree and who can demonstrate they have at least $10,000 in student debt and their account is current.

The application deadline is June 30th. All applications must be signed by the Local Union President, Secretary-Treasurer or authorized officer before submission to the International Union.

**ELIGIBILITY:**
To be eligible for this program an applicant must be:

- A member or an associate member of OPEIU in good standing on the date the scholarship was awarded, unless a member loses employment to study on a full-time basis, has retired as a member in good standing, becomes disabled or terminated as a result of employer layoffs and/or plant closings.
- Must have completed an Associate Degree or Undergraduate Degree program at a College, University or a recognized Technical or Vocational post-secondary school as a full-time or part-time student.
- Must demonstrate that he/she has at least $10,000 in outstanding student debt and is making regular student loan payments to a recognized student loan provider or debtor organization.
- Must submit documentation that student loan payments are up to date.
- Members who received an OPEIU Howard Coughlin scholarship award within the last five (5) years are not eligible for this program.

**STUDENT DEBT SCHOLARSHIPS:**
Five (5) $2,500 scholarships will be awarded in July of each year. Applicants must meet the eligibility requirements and comply with the Rules and Regulations as established by the OPEIU Executive Board. Applicants are eligible to receive only one $2,500 lifetime award.

**PAYMENTS OF AWARDS:**
Each scholarship award shall be granted with a one-time payment of $2,500 to a recognized student-loan provider or debtor organization, or if not accepted by the debtor organization, the scholarship program may make an alternate arrangement with the awardee. All awards are taxable income to the awardee.

**PROCEDURES:**
Each applicant must file an official OPEIU Student Debt Reduction Scholarship application. Application forms must be endorsed by the Local Union President, Secretary-Treasurer or other authorized officer, attesting that the member or associate member is in good standing on the date of application. Such endorsement must be obtained BEFORE the application is submitted. The application form must also be endorsed if a member loses employment to study on a full-time basis, retires, is disabled, or is terminated as a result of employer layoffs and/or plant closings. Member must also be in good standing on the date of the award.

**FORMS:**
An application form can be found on the next page (page 14) of this edition of Local 153 News.

**REQUIREMENTS:**
Applicants must provide proof that they have completed an Associate Degree or Undergraduate Degree program at a College, University or a recognized Technical or Vocational post-secondary school as a full time or part-time student.

**APPLICATION:**
All applications are due in the Secretary-Treasurer’s office of the International Union no later than June 30.

**SELECTION OF WINNERS:**
All applications will be entered into a drawing. All applicants will be notified in the month of July. Winners will receive a notice in the mail. Applicants who have not been selected for an award will be notified by email. Once again, an application form can be found on the next page (page 14) of this edition of Local 153 News.
OFFICE AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION

2017 STUDENT DEBT REDUCTION PROGRAM

APPLICATION FORM
FILING DEADLINE: June 30, 2017

Name of Member ____________________________

Last ________________ First ________________ Middle ________________

Home Address:

__________________________________________

Street ____________________________ City ____________ State ____________ Zip Code ____________

E-mail ____________________________

Date of Birth ____________

Sex: M ______ F ______

SS# / SI# ____________________________ Telephone ____________________________

Member/Associate Member Employed By ____________________________

OPEIU Local Union Number ____________________________

Name of Financial Institution: ____________________________

Loan Statement Enclosed ☐ Associate Degree ☐ Undergraduate Degree ☐

Year ____________ Year ____________

Balance of Loan as of the date of this application ____________________________

Signature of Member ____________________________ Date ____________________________

Applicant must be a dues paying member of OPEIU for at least one year and application must be endorsed by the Local Union President, Secretary-Treasurer or other authorized officer attesting the member or associate member is in good standing, having paid dues for 12 out of the last 14 months on the date of the award. Such endorsement must be obtained from the Local Union BEFORE the application is submitted to the International Union.

Signature of Local Union President, Secretary-Treasurer or other authorized officer:

__________________________________________ Date ____________________________

Local Union Number ____________________________

(Print Name and Title of Signing Officer)

SEND APPLICATION TO:

Student Debt Reduction Program
Office & Professional Employees International Union
80 Eighth Avenue, Suite 610
New York, NY 10011
Telephone: 212.367.0902
Union Members

AT&T is the only nationwide unionized wireless carrier. When you choose AT&T, you support the nearly 150,000 union members employed there. Visit an AT&T store where you’ll be helped by a fellow union member.

**AT&T Retailer:** The Union Plus Discount Code is **4924966**.

**Sign up today!**

Take this coupon and a union membership card, or the attached member discount card, to your local AT&T store (discount not available at authorized dealers or kiosks). Ask about the AT&T discount through Union Plus® or register for the discount at unionplus.org/ATT15.

15% ON THE MONTHLY SERVICE CHARGE OF QUALIFIED WIRELESS PLANS: Available only to current members of qualified AFL-CIO member unions, other authorized individuals associated with eligible unions and other sponsoring organizations with a qualifying agreement. Must provide acceptable proof of union membership such as a membership card from your local union, a pay stub showing dues deduction or the Union Plus Member Discount Card and subscribe to service under an individual account for which the member is personally liable. Offer contingent upon in-store verification of union member status. Discount subject to agreement between Union Privilege and AT&T and may be interrupted, changed or discontinued without notice. Discount applies only to recurring monthly service charge of qualified voice and data plans, not overages. Not available with unlimited voice or unlimited data plans. For Family Talk, applies only to primary line. For all Mobile Share plans, applies only to monthly plan charge of plans with 1GB or more, not to additional monthly device access charges. Additional restrictions apply. May take up to 2 bill cycles after eligibility confirmed and will not apply to prior charges. Applied after application of any available credit. May not be combined with other service discounts. Visit unionplus.org/ATT or contact AT&T at 800-331-0500 for details.

$25 waived activation fee on select devices.

**AT&T will apply the Accessory Discount to the prices of select Accessories available through AT&T, which may be modified by AT&T from time to time. The term “Accessory” or “Accessories” means supplementary parts for Equipment (e.g., batteries, cases, earbuds). The Accessory Discount will not apply to Accessories purchased for use with data-centric Equipment such as modems, replacement SIM cards and car kits or to Apple-branded Accessories, and the Accessory Discount may not be combined with any other promotional pricing or offer.**

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BUCK-ATT-L0317

**Save 15%** on the monthly service charge of qualified AT&T wireless plans¹

Excludes unlimited plans. Sign up for the Union Plus Discount even if you choose an unlimited plan to ensure you have access to other member benefits like the **$25 activation fee waiver** and **20% accessory discount**.

**Member Discount Card**

Reach for the card and make saving a habit!

See your discounts at unionplus.org

**Popular Offers Include:**

- **AT&T WIRELESS** — save 15%, unionplus.org/ATT15 (Use Discount Code: 4924966)
- **CREDIT CARDS** — theunioncard.com
- **FLOWERS** — save 20%, unionplus.org/flowers
- **CAR RENTAL DISCOUNTS** — unionplus.org/carentals

Avis 1-800-669-1101 (AWD# B723700)
Budget 1-800-455-2848 (BCD# V816100)
Dollar 1-800-800-4000 (CDP# 3042236)
Hertz 1-800-654-2200 (CDP# 205666)
Payless 1-800-729-5377 (PDN# A071900)

For more benefits, visit unionplus.org
Local 153 News
Office and Professional Employees International Union, AFL-CIO
265 West 14th Street • New York, NY 10011

Address Service Requested

Attend the next membership meeting on September 19 and you may win a great prize like these members!

Local 153’s next membership meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 19 at 6:00 p.m. at Gertrude Lane Auditorium, 305 West 44th Street. Members who attend will be able to take part in a raffle with great prizes like those seen here, won by members at the most recent membership meeting: Danny Farber, Wellington Hotel, who won UR Beats headphones; Anthony Leake, Citi Field, who won an Acer Chromebook 11; Francisca Mujica, CWA Local 1180, who won a Fitbit Wristband; Tolbert Lapomarel, Hilton Garden Inn, who now has a Samsung Galaxy Tablet; Marianne Morales, DC 1707, won a Flip 3 Bluetooth Speaker; and David Haines, Actors Equity, who now has a Fire TV in his living room.