Governor and Mayor Join Union Members at Working People’s Rally in Manhattan

Thousands of union members across the country rallied for workers’ rights on Saturday, February 24. In Manhattan the rally featured Governor Andrew Cuomo, Mayor Bill de Blasio and New York State Labor Commissioner Roberta Reardon. The rally took place in anticipation of the U.S. Supreme Court’s hearing on Janus, a case that could make it hard for unions to operate and could make it especially difficult for unions representing more than five million government employees in half the states in the country.

Governor Cuomo drew a tumultuous response when he said, “I am New York born and bred, I am middle class born and bred and I am 100% pro-union born and bred!” Cuomo added, “You are the heart and soul of America, fighting for fairness and justice. While labor is under attack across the country, in New York we are going forward!”

“This is the biggest union town in America, and we are proud of that,” Mayor de Blasio said. “You are out in strong numbers today, and I can feel the passion in this crowd because we will not let our city or our country be taken over by the one percent!”

OPEIU President Richard Lanigan and Local 153 Business Manager Michael Goodwin both thanked members personally for attending the rally in a strong show of support for working men and women across the country.

Here are some of our union’s members who attended the Working People’s Rally.
King’s Undying Dream

By Maya Smith

(As we observed the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s death during the month of April and scores of members from OPEIU and Local 153 journeyed to Memphis in memory of him, I thought that it would be most appropriate to turn my column over to Maya Smith, whose poignant thoughts on this important issue are reprinted from “The Memphis Flyer”—Michael Goodwin)

When a single bullet was fired onto the balcony of room 306 at the Lorraine Motel 50 years ago, ending the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a dreamer was killed, but the dream wasn’t.

The dream didn’t die then, and it hasn’t died yet.

A plaque honoring King near the spot where he was slain, quoting the Bible, says it all. It reads: “They said to each other, ‘Behold, here cometh the dreamer. Let us slay him and we shall see what becomes of his dreams.’”

You can slay the dreamer, but some dreams can never die, especially those of a man like King. In King’s short 39 years on Earth, not only was he able to motivate and lead thousands, he was also able to inspire a dream that would live on five decades later. King wasn’t an ordinary dreamer; unlike most, he pursued his dreams with action and unwavering persistence.

From the time King was 17 years old, writing letters to editors of newspapers saying that blacks deserve the basic rights and opportunities of American citizens, to the day he died, during the midst of a fight for livable wages, King had a dream and stuck with it.

If there’s one thing that we can learn from King and other participants in the civil rights movement, it’s the notion of never giving up on what you know is right and just, no matter how unattainable it may seem.

Despite the general enemy-making nature of his work, which included threats and assaults, a bomb to his home, and multiple incarcerations, King’s resolve to fight for a better life with equal opportunities for African Americans never subsided.

Because his work and mission lived on and still lives on, King didn’t die a victim, but a victor. Perhaps King’s message is still so powerful today because it was different. Every action of resistance was rooted in love and carried out peacefully.

King wrote in the memoir “Strides Toward Freedom” that he understood nonviolence to mean “winning an opponent to friendship, rather than to humiliate or defeat him,” by using “weapons of love.”

He was teaching people who sought justice and equality to work against evil with dignity, pride, and respect because as he said, “the beauty of nonviolence is that in its own way and in its own time it seeks to break the chain reaction of evil.”

No evil is too evil to drive out with a persistent and consistent force propelled by love.

Now that we’ve remembered, commemorated, and celebrated King, what do we do after April 4th? How will King’s dream and message continue to impact our lives and the decisions we make as a society? Will we learn from King and be bold enough to nonviolently and peacefully pursue our own dreams of a better America, or will we sit back and wait for someone else to come along and do it?

If you don’t think the dream of a single person or a group of people can cause dramatic shifts in society, then you aren’t paying attention. It happened before, and it can happen again. Just look at the recent actions of the surviving Parkland students, who are using a tragedy as an opportunity to push for changes they believe are necessary. Their cause is rippling through the country, gaining supporters, and turning heads.

Close to two million Americans turned out in 800 cities at the end of last month to march in solidarity with the Parkland students for gun control and the end of gun violence in schools. In Washington, D.C., 800,000 marchers fittingly gathered near the spot where King

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OPEIU held its educational conference for all local unions, including Local 153, in Memphis during the week our nation observed the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Members who participated visited locations associated with Dr. King’s life, including the Masonic Temple where he gave his “I have been to the mountaintop” speech, the Lorraine motel, where he was killed, and the route he marched with Memphis’s striking sanitation workers. Today, the Lorraine Motel serves as the National Civil Rights Museum, and some members took advantage of their free time at the educational conference to visit there.

There were many great speeches recalling the greatness of Dr. King’s message and the eloquence with which he advocated it.

As an example members heard from some of the original Memphis sanitation workers whose strike drew not only the verbal support of Dr. King, but his presence in that city when he was killed.

The OPEIU education conference itself taught members key aspects of organizing and mobilization. But most of all there was a spirit of unity and commitment around the theme that as inspiring as Dr. King’s life and accomplishments were, his work is far from concluded. Indeed, there is more work to be done.

Here are some of the Local 153 members that journeyed to Memphis, left photo and, right photo, members from OPEIU Local Unions across the county.

King’s Undying Dream

Continued from page 2

gave his famous 1964 “I Have a Dream” speech. There, the crowd listened to the dreams of others, including King’s own granddaughter.

It was a possible tipping point for legislation, and the countrywide demonstration has been cited as possibly the largest such protest in our country’s history. It’s just more evidence proving that one person, one cause, or one demonstration can catalyze a powerful and momentous dream, which, with enough momentum, can result in a significant change.
Local 153 Participates in Child Care Lobby Day

On February 6th union leaders and rank-and-file members from across New York congregated in Albany for the New York Union Child Care Coalition’s Child Care Advocacy Day. Local 153 members were joined by members from DC 37, 1199, UFT, RWDSU and CSEA as well as other child care activists in lobbying for quality affordable child care for New York’s working families. These members mobilized on the staircase in the state legislature to advocate for an increase in safe, accessible and affordable child care and to continue the Child Care Facilitated Enrollment Project that helps working families pay for child care and after school programs. The rally also demanded meaningful wage enhancements for child care providers.

Planned Parenthood Miami Office Overwhelmingly Votes to Unionize

Employees of the Miami Office of Planned Parenthood Federation of America are now members of Local 153! Their decision to join our union became official after the counting of mail-in ballots. Director of Organizing Nick Galipeau led the successful organizing campaign.

Miami is the second Planned Parenthood Federation of America office to unionize, following the Washington, DC office, which did so in late 2016 and is currently in contract negotiations. The Miami Office joins unionized nonprofits including Amnesty International, NARAL Pro-Choice America, Media Matters, Public Citizen, Oxfam America, and the Sierra Club.

“Every workplace deserves a union. As an organization with a long history of fighting alongside unions in favor of workers’ rights, Local 153 welcomes Planned Parenthood Federation of America to the table,” said Local 153 Business Manager, Michael Goodwin. “We hope for a collaborative negotiation process and look forward to working together.”
Lavina Michl Wright Scholarship

The Lavina Michl Wright college scholarship program is open to children of Local 153 members in good standing. To apply for one of the 2018 Lavina Michl Wright scholarships, students must be attending college or be high school seniors who will be attending college in the fall of 2018.

All applications for the Lavina Michl Wright scholarships must be filed online. Students must demonstrate academic achievement (a GPA of 2.5 or higher) and financial need. The number of recipients and the amount of the scholarships depend on several factors, including fluctuations in the amount of money in the scholarship trust fund and the number of qualified applications received.

To fill out and file an application for a Lavina Michl Wright college scholarship, visit CSASCHOLARS.ORG/WRIGHT on the web. Applications and all the information you need to complete an application can be found at this website.

Don't delay! The deadline for applying for a 2018 Lavina Michl Wright college scholarship and submitting the material required to accompany the application is May 31, 2018. Visit CSASCHOLARS.ORG/WRIGHT now!

We wish the best of luck to all students that apply.

John Kelly Labor Studies Scholarship

Ten (10) scholarships per year will be awarded on the basis of at least 1 per region and not to exceed 1 per family. Applications are open to members or associate members in good standing for at least 2 years. All applicants must meet eligibility requirements and comply with the rules and regulations as established by the OPEIU Executive Board. Each scholarship has a total maximum value of $3,250.00.

The applicant must be a member or associate member of OPEIU in good standing and either an undergraduate or graduate student in one of the following areas of study: Labor Studies; Industrial Relations; Social Science or a related field; Non-degree Programs sponsored by the National Labor College at the George Meany Center or similar institution.

Howard Coughlin Memorial Scholarship

Full-time Scholarships:
Twelve full-time scholarships will be awarded on the basis of at least one per region and not to exceed one per family for a lifetime. Applications are open to members in good standing, associate members or to their children all of whom must meet the eligibility requirements and comply with the rules and regulations as established by the OPEIU Executive Board. Each scholarship is $1,625.00 per year for a total maximum of $6,500.

Part-time Scholarships:
Seven part-time scholarships will be awarded on the basis of at least one per region and not to exceed one per family for a lifetime. Applications are open to members in good standing, associate members or to their children all of whom must meet the eligibility requirements and comply with the rules and regulations as established by the OPEIU Executive Board. Each scholarship is $662.50 per year for a total maximum value of $2,650.00.

Part-time scholarships are defined as a minimum of three credits and no more than two courses. If a part-time student does not attend a college/university each semester, they have 2 years maximum to use the part-time scholarship. If the student becomes a full-time student, while receiving a part-time student scholarship, the scholarship will be revoked and they will be able to apply for a full-time scholarship.

Romeo Corbeil/Gilles Beauregard Memorial Scholarship Fund

This fund offers opportunity to children (ages 13-16) of OPEIU members and associate members to attend a summer camp program to learn about labor unions while having a great camp experience.

Each year up to 20 children are chosen to have their transportation and camp registration fees (up to $2,000) paid for by the Romeo Corbeil/Gilles Beauregard Memorial Fund.

* The summer camp will be held in August of each year at University Forest, 153 University Forest Drive Wappapello, MO 63966 (573) 222-8373, fax (573) 222-8829.

Application forms for the John Kelly, Howard Coughlin, and Romeo Corbeil/Gilles Beauregard Scholarships are available at Local 153’s office or the office of OPEIU’s Secretary-Treasurer or at opeiu153.org (click on Membership Benefits).

For more information on these scholarships and others, please see the Local 153 Benefits Booklet at opeiu153.org
An Important and Perhaps Lifesaving Message About Cancer

The following information on colorectal cancer was prepared at my request by Jeffrey S. Freed, Local 153 Medical Consultant. Colorectal cancer is the third most common cancer among men and women in the U.S. and the second leading cause of death. But it can be prevented and it can be cured if found early enough, as Dr. Freed explains here. We think it is important for members to know more about this important health issue.—Michael Goodwin

There are various screens and tests available to help reduce the occurrence of colorectal cancer (which is cancer that starts in the colon or rectum) or to at least detect it early when it is most curable. Prevention, by removing all the little tumors (called polyps) in the colon and rectum, and early detection, by repeated colorectal exams, are critical in decreasing the number of colorectal cancers and especially in decreasing the number of cancer deaths.

Colorectal cancer is the third most common cancer among men and women in the U.S. and the second leading cause of death. On average, one in 20 people are at risk for developing the disease and for an estimated one in three people diagnosed with colorectal cancer, the disease will prove fatal. But the most important number of all is 90 percent, which is the proportion of all colorectal cancer cases and deaths that could be prevented through timely screening.

Virtually all colon cancer begins as a polyp, although most polyps don’t become cancers. Family history can play a part in this, but there are risk factors that can be controlled through lifestyle and behavioral changes. Decreasing red meat and processed meats like cold cuts, sausage, bacon and hot dogs will lessen the likelihood of developing colorectal cancer; while being overweight, lacking physical activity, smoking, and heavy alcohol usage will increase the likelihood.

Most colorectal cancers occur in people over 50 years of age. However, the incidence of colorectal cancer rises after age 60. In addition, in the past several decades there has been a noted increase of the disease in people under age 50, which is a particularly disturbing phenomenon because people in younger age groups are not as likely to be screened.

While it’s pretty clear that you can’t get younger, change your genetic background or your family history, you can manage your weight and eat healthier—including more fresh fruits and vegetables and far less red meat, while keeping alcohol consumption to moderate levels and refraining from smoking. And you can also make certain that you have proper screening for the disease.

According to the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force guidelines, men and women at average risk should have an initial colorectal cancer screening at age 50 and continue until age 75. The frequency of the screening depends on the method and findings. People at higher risk, including those with a family history of polyps, colorectal cancer or inflammatory bowel disease, should work with their doctor to develop a more individualized screening plan.

The thing to keep in mind about screening for colorectal cancer is that there is no perfect single method. Each individual must be aware of the choices, be informed and discuss the options with their physician.

Colonoscopy remains the “gold standard” in colorectal cancer screening. Along with having the highest rate of accuracy, colonoscopy is one of the very few cancer screenings that can also be used as a clinical intervention through the ability to perform a biopsy of a suspicious area or remove pre-cancerous polyps.

Another procedure is called CT colonography (virtual colonoscopy) that uses a CT scanner to look for polyps, tumors and other problems. This method of screening is less invasive than a colonoscopy but does require a cleansing preparation and exposes the patient to a small amount of radiation. If polyps or other suspicious areas are seen, you would still need a colonoscopy to remove the polyps or study them fully.

There are a number of stool tests that are designed to find cancer or large polyps that are already present. Stool can be analyzed for blood and/or DNA fragments that look for certain gene changes that are sometimes found in colon cancer and rectal cancer cells. Stool-based tests hold promise for technological advancements. And, lastly, there are new blood tests in development to detect abnormal fragments of polyp- and cancer-related DNA in the blood that are in development.

I would strongly recommend that you do a little research into these various methods to get a sense of their capabilities, their advantages and disadvantages. Along with this if you are

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Health Benefits and Compensation for Workers Impacted by 9/11

If you were in lower Manhattan, south of Canal Street, between September 11, 2001 and May 30, 2002, you may be entitled to free healthcare and compensation benefits. OPEIU Local 153 is working in collaboration with Napoli Shkolnik PLLC and Pitta & Baione LLP to represent individuals seeking 9/11 benefits.

Conditions eligible for free healthcare and compensation include cancer, respiratory illnesses, sleep apnea, and GERD (persistent heartburn). Families of those who passed away from an eligible condition may also be eligible for compensation.

The federal government has provided $12 billion in funding for the World Trade Center Health Program and the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund. The Health Program provides free monitoring, medication, and treatment, while the Fund provides tax-free compensation as a lump sum payment.

Time is of the essence to determine if you are eligible. The Fund is due to expire in 2020 and there are critical filing deadlines. Please contact either firm below to determine your eligibility.

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<th>CALL TO FIND OUT IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE.</th>
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<td>NAPOLI LAW</td>
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<td>ATTORNEYS AT LAW</td>
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<td>(877) WTCHERO</td>
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<td>ZADROGACLAIM.COM</td>
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<td>360 LEXINGTON AVENUE, 17TH FLOOR</td>
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| P&B                                  |
| PITTA & BAIONE LLP                   |
| (844) WTC-COMP                       |
| 911BENEFITS.COM                      |
| 130 BROADWAY, 28TH FLOOR             |
| NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10271             |

Taxpayer Service for Members and Family

Local 153 is recommending that all members and their families who have problems with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and have not been able to get their problems resolved on their own should contact the Taxpayer Advocate Service.

The Taxpayer Advocate Service (TAS) is an independent organization within the Internal Revenue Service that helps taxpayers and protects taxpayers’ rights. Their job is to ensure that every taxpayer is treated fairly and that the taxpayer knows and understands their rights under the Taxpayer Bill of Rights.

The Taxpayer Bill of Rights describes 10 basic rights that all taxpayers have when dealing with the IRS. The TAS taxpayer rights page can help you understand what these rights mean to you and how they apply. These are your rights, so it’s important that you know and use them.

The TAS website is taxpayeradvocate.irs.gov and can help you with common tax issues and situations such as what to do if you made a mistake on your tax return, if you got a notice from the IRS, or you’re thinking about hiring a tax preparer.

TAS can help you resolve problems that you can’t resolve with the IRS. The services TAS offers are free. If you qualify for TAS assistance, you will be assigned to an advocate who will do everything they can to get your problem resolved and will stay with you every step of the way. TAS advocates are all experienced in dealing with the IRS, so they know how to work with the IRS to get your problem resolved.

TAS can help you if:

• Your problem is causing financial difficulty for you or your family.

• You face an immediate threat of adverse action.

• You’ve tried repeatedly to contact the IRS, but no one has responded or the IRS hasn’t responded by the date promised.

For your convenience TAS has offices in every state. They can be reached at taxpayeradvocate.irs.gov or by phone at 877-777-4778.

We urge members and family in need to check out this important service!
Staying Active Politically and Otherwise

Dear Brother Goodwin,

An update from Florida from a retired Local 153 member who was employed by HIP.

I was the person on the committee that did the research and put together the letter on Charter Schools for the Executive Board of the Palm Beach County D.E.C. The committee made some minor changes but did approve the content as it was approved by Ira J. Raab as a retired NYS Supreme Court Justice.

I am also sending you another committee report on gun legislation that if passed back in 2016 could have prevented the recent school tragedy in Parkland, Florida. In another update, our Palm Beach County chair, Terrie Rizzo, has become the new Florida State chair of the Democratic party! Our club’s goal is to have over 2,000 voter members by the end of this year. That covers at least four to six precincts and that we could become the largest Democratic Club in Florida.

There is a great deal of work ahead to make Florida a “blue state,” but we have a great team of qualified people to make this happen. The unions in Florida and across the country have taken a beating for years and it’s time to elect Democratic governors to turn things around.

Hopefully this is that year. There is a great deal of anger and we need to turn this anger into getting out a massive Democratic vote. We also need to take back the U.S. House and Senate—it can happen with everyone working together. The school children across the nation are waking up to the massive problems they are going to inherit. They want to see change and we need to help them.

Hundreds of seniors come to our meetings and we provide all with current information that affects their quality of life. We have had over 360 show up recently.

That’s it for now.

Allen Robbins
OPEIU Local 153 (HIP) Retiree

An Invigorating Conference

Dear Mr. Goodwin,

I would like to thank you and Richard Lanigan for the opportunity to attend the invigorating conference in Memphis. The ceremony on the 50th Anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on April 4th reminded all of us that there is still work to be done. From the early morning march and the visit to the MLK, Jr. Museum and the various speakers, we know we cannot stop and we must not stop. Dr. King’s legacy has to be continued. Thank you!

Brenda Knight
Local 153 Executive Board Member

Women in Leadership

Dear Mr. Goodwin,

Thank you so very much for allowing me the opportunity to represent OPEIU Local 153 at the 15th Annual Women in Leadership Development (WILD) Conference recently. This conference has liberated and enlightened me in various areas, from the Janus vs AFSCME case to bridging the divide and the “safe jobs equal safe lives” campaign.

Here is a photo I was fortunate enough to have taken with Dr. Geraldine Healy and Dr. Gil Kirton, who reflected on women’s labor leadership in a post-Trump and post-Brexit world.

Yours in Solidarity,

Robin Williamson
Local 153 Executive Board Member

Dear Mr. Goodwin,

I wanted to thank you for the invitation to attend the Cardinal’s 25th Annual Business & Labor Reception. It was a very nice event and benefited a great cause. They were able to present a check to the CYO/Youth and Young Adult Ministry for $740,000. I wish you had been there so I could have thanked you in person. I hope to see you soon.

Mabel A. Wong
Seton Hall University
Triangle Fire Victims Remembered; Workers Memorial Day to Be 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 workers 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 victims, most of them women, were all young—some only 13 years of age—and they were almost all 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 were remembered at the scene of the fire, at a memorial service 107 years later, on March 25, 2018, by a city that never forgets its fallen.

New York City was understandably horrified by the deaths of 146 of its own. 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

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In 1911 fire ladders could only reach the sixth floor. Today, they can rise much higher.

Each year on March 25th New York remembers its fallen from the Triangle fire.
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. Those panic bars became mandatory because of the Triangle fire. That’s because after the fire investigators discovered that the victims were trapped inside by doors that were locked to keep union organizers out of the workplace. 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 Triangle fire. Today there are fire extinguishers everywhere in 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—Green 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 sixth floor. Neighborhood students dropped a flower for each victim as a fire bell was tolled 146 times and hundreds stood in solemn silence in memory—further evidence that the Triangle workers did not die in vain.

The Triangle workers and many other workplace victims will again be remembered on April 28, when unions observe Workers Memorial Day. The event takes place not only to remember those who have suffered and died on the job but to renew the fight for safe jobs. Unions and our allies have fought hard to make that promise a reality—winning protections that have made jobs safer, saved hundreds of thousands of lives and prevented millions of workplace injuries and illnesses.

But our work is not done. Each year, thousands of workers are still killed at work and millions more suffer injury or illness because of their jobs. Workplace fatalities are on the rise again.

Please remember unions’ goals for workplace safety and health on Workers Memorial Day, April 28, as the fight for safe jobs continues.

Neighborhood students called the name of each of the 146 victims as a fire bell was rung.

**An Important and Perhaps Lifesaving Message About Cancer**

Continued from page 10

50-years or older or have rectal bleeding, any change in bowel habits, or a family history of colon or rectal disease, please speak with your doctor about which screening method is best for you.

If you have any questions about the above, any symptoms that worry you, or are having difficulty with a decision about your screening, please do not hesitate to contact me at 212-396-0050 or email me at jsfmd@aol.com.

Jeffrey S. Freed, MD MPH FACS (Medical Consultant of Local 153)
Associate Clinical Professor
Department of Surgery
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, NY
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 212-292-4664

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

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.

IDENTITY THEFT PROTECTION
A fully-managed identity theft restoration and monitoring program for Local 153 members in good standing.

To register, visit www.opeiuidprotect.com Questions? Call 855-990-0994

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.

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

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
April 10 Was Equal Pay Day!

This month our nation once again observed Equal Pay Day. This event was designed to heighten awareness about the disparity in wages between men and women. And although equal pay has been the law since 1964, the truth is that women still receive less pay than men who have similar education, skills and experience.

Today, women on average receive about 80% of the wages a man receives for the same work!

The gap in wages between men and women covers just about every non-union job classification imaginable. The damage caused by this gap is huge. An AFL-CIO survey conducted in 2014 found that 64% of the women interviewed were providing at least half of their family’s income. This means that if all women were to get equal pay, entire families would benefit.

Equal Pay Day calls attention to the persistent moral and economic injustice working women face. For a woman to earn as much as a man, she has to work a full year, plus an awful lot of extra days, all the way to April 10—which is why that date this year was called Equal Pay Day.

Yes, it used to be worse. In 1963, when President John F. Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act, women were paid only 59 cents for every dollar men made. So, while it can be said that progress has been made and that Equal Pay Day came sooner this year, it still isn’t soon enough. It will only be truly Equal Pay Day when men and women at all jobs in all industries and professions are paid equally!

Local 153 News
Office and Professional Employees International Union, AFL-CIO
265 West 14th Street • New York, NY 10011

Address Service Requested

Local 153 General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, May 15
Gertrude Lane Auditorium
305 West 44th Street
Mezzanine Level
6:00 p.m.

All Local 153 members are invited to attend!