The Local 153 Benefits Fund will offer employers under contract with Local 153 the option of providing a variety of subsidized benefits to members in their employ from the Fund, announced Business Manager Michael Goodwin.

Goodwin stated that, “This offer came about following a financial analysis of Fund balances indicating a surplus of more than $7 million dollars and the desire of the Fund to share the surplus with members.”

Secretary-Treasurer Richard Lanigan, who also serves as OPEIU International President, said that the offer to subsidize benefits “brings unprecedented value to employers and much needed benefits to members”.

The subsidized benefits will include dental benefits, short-term disability benefits, optical, hearing aid/Lasik eye surgery and life insurance benefits. Employers agreeing to provide any one of the five subsidized benefits through the Fund will also entitle their employees to reimbursement of 50% of individual gym membership fees, up to $100 per year, at no additional cost to the employers.

The cost to employers for other benefits are remarkably low. For example, a comprehensive dental program through the Union Labor Life Insurance Company (ULLICO) which is currently provided through the Fund at $57 per employee per month, will now be offered at $30 per employee per month. This amounts to more than a 43% subsidy of the employer’s cost for dental benefits.

Also, the Fund offers a higher level Short Term Disability (STD) benefit for $20 per employee per month which provides eligible employees with a maximum benefit of $615 a week.

Optical benefits are offered providing $50 for an exam and $150 for eyeglasses yearly through the Fund for $5 per employee per month. Life insurance and AD&D benefits are available at $.20 cents per $1,000 per employee per month with no medical or age restrictions when obtained through the Fund for the group.

Finally, hearing aids and Lasik eye surgery coverage can be obtained for $10 per employee per month. Hearing aid reimbursements of up to $1,000 per ear every three years are provided and a lifetime Lasik eye surgery reimbursement of $1,000 per eye.

Local 153 members at the Municipal Credit Union enthusiastically ratified a three-year contract in April. The agreement is retroactive to January 15, 2016 and it provides wage increases of 3.5% the first year, 3.5% the second year and 3% in year three. Lump sum bonus payments were increased for employees with 9, 15 or 20 years on the job. There are no changes to current health care benefits. There are also increases in bonuses for perfect attendance. Local 153 represents 450 workers at MCU’s more than 20 branches in the five boroughs. Local 153 Assistant Business Manager John Edmonds, who is seen here with MCU employees following their ratification vote, thanked the members of the negotiating committee, Chief Shop Steward Millie Sanchez, Shop Steward Renee Spradley and Negotiating Committee Member Ray Jordan for their hard work, and he thanked the membership itself for their solidarity in achieving this contract.

Members at MCU Win New Contract

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Rigor mortis had yet to set in on Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia’s body before major Republicans began turning his death into a political football.

Shortly after Scalia’s death, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said that President Obama should forget about appointing a replacement. McConnell, who was quickly echoed by every Republican candidate for president, said that the next president and not Obama should appoint Scalia’s replacement.

“Let the voters decide,” McConnell said.

“No Supreme Court justice in the last 80 years was appointed by a lame duck president,” added Marco Rubio.

Senator Ted Cruz echoed Rubio, adding that he would filibuster any attempt by President Obama to appoint someone to replace Scalia.

Actually, McConnell, Rubio, Cruz and their “amen chorus” are all wrong. For starters, the voters already have decided who gets to appoint the next Supreme Court Justice. They voted for Barack Obama, not once but twice (the second time by more than five million votes!), and the Constitution of the United States authorizes the president to nominate Supreme Court justices with the advice and consent of the Senate. In the cases of Rubio and Cruz, they are not only wrong, they are making up history. It is an inescapable fact that six times in the 20th century, U.S. Presidents nominated Supreme Court justices during their last year in office. One current justice, Anthony Kennedy, who was nominated by Ronald Reagan, was approved by the Senate in 1988, Reagan’s last year in office.

The Democrats’ reaction to the GOP’s blustering was immediate, and no one said it better than Senator Charles Schumer. Noting that Ted Cruz holds himself as a scholar on the Constitution, Schumer said, “Let him show me the clause where it says presidents only get to make appointments the first three years of their terms.”

As they threaten to throw the country into constitutional chaos, the Republicans aren’t being shy about why they are taking their hardline position. Like a choir singing in unison, they say that it would upset the balance of the court if another conservative justice like Scalia isn’t appointed.

This pronouncement by GOP elected officials leads to two important points. The first is that they are now openly admitting that they view the Supreme Court as a partisan political body, something that many Democrats claimed in the year 2000, when the Court elected George W. Bush after Al Gore had garnered far more votes nationally. The second point is that while Republicans say they want a justice like Antonin Scalia, many reasonable people are saying that is the last thing the country needs right now.

Scalia spent almost three decades on the Court force feeding his extremist views onto the rest of us. Rather than being the icon that Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio have labeled him, Scalia was a menace to honest elections, women’s rights, minorities, workers’ rights, gay rights, the Bill of Rights, and justice in general.

It was Antonin Scalia, commenting from the bench of the Supreme Court, who said the venerable Voting Rights Act created an attitude of “racial entitlement.” People in the gallery gasped at this remark, but that didn’t stop the Court’s majority from gutting sections of this historic law in a ruling that was quickly followed in several southern states by rampant racial gerrymandering and enactment of voter ID laws designed to keep blacks and Latinos from casting their ballots.

It was also Scalia who, in a hearing on affirmative action last December, suggested that African-American students would do better in inferior schools instead of the University of Texas, where he claimed classes were too intellectually advanced for them. Again, the gallery gasped!
The Constitution Must Be Followed

Continued from page 2

The truth is that in his nearly 30 years on the Supreme Court, it is difficult to find a single instance where Scalia found any form of discrimination to be unconstitutional.

And no one should forget Scalia’s prominent role in Bush v. Gore, the Supreme Court’s most infamous decision since Dred Scott. After a judicial lifetime of trumpeting states’ rights, it was Scalia who issued an “emergency order” that stepped on the state of Florida’s rights, overruling the Florida Supreme Court and halting the re-counting of votes in the 2000 presidential election. Scalia’s stay—eventually approved 5-to-4—came when Gore was suddenly only 154 votes behind Bush in Florida and 500,000 votes ahead nationally.

When the Supreme Court made its discreditable decision in this case, Justice John Paul Stevens, a Republican appointee nominated by President Gerald Ford, issued a scorching dissent that said: “Although we may never know with complete certainty the identity of the winner of this year’s presidential election, the identity of the loser is perfectly clear. It is the nation’s confidence in the judge as the impartial guardian of the rule of law.”

When Scalia issued his stay, his son, Eugene, was the law partner of Theodore Olson, the attorney who was arguing Bush’s case before the Supreme Court. A short time later, Eugene Scalia got a top job in one of the Bush cabinet departments. Later, Justice Scalia shamefully went duck hunting with Vice President Dick Cheney. Why was this shameful? Because a federal judge had ordered Cheney to reveal the names of the moguls he met with secretly to formulate the Bush administration’s energy policy. Cheney had appealed this ruling to the Supreme Court, where it was pending while he and Scalia hunted ducks together.

While Ted Cruz calls Scalia a hero and Marco Rubio calls him a shining example, more than a few legal scholars agree with the late author and newspaper columnist, Jack Newfield, who called Scalia a cancer on the Constitution.

The Republicans are trying to deny President Obama’s constitutional duty by refusing to consider his appointment of Merrick Garland as Scalia’s replacement because Garland is not a Scalia clone. Their actions will leave a vacancy on the Court for more than a year and perhaps as long as 18 months. But their strategy may backfire. President Obama, who was head of the Harvard Law Review and taught constitutional law for more than a decade at the University of Chicago, has nominated someone who respects the Constitution rather than some political hack who satisfies the whims and whines of politicians like McConnell, Cruz, Rubio, and the others who believe in a conservative entitlement and partisan prerogative when it comes to court appointments. If the Republicans succeed in their efforts, then this November voters will not only be electing the next president, they will be choosing the direction of the Supreme Court for years and perhaps generations to come.
Membership Meetings Matter!

Local 153 general membership meetings are always the best way for members to learn more about their benefits, meet their union’s leaders and have any questions answered. Special guests often add to the important information distributed at these meetings, and there are almost always added highlights—in the last year there have been raffles, video presentations, and even a fashion show!

At the most recent membership meeting, held during the week the nation observed the birthday of the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., the union showed Dr. King’s “I Have a Dream” speech, which was followed by guest speaker Anthony Harmon, the President of the New York Chapter of the NAACP. We hope these photos from the most recent membership meeting encourage members to attend the next one, which will be held Tuesday, May 17, at 6:00 p.m. at Gertrude Lane Auditorium, 305 West 44th Street, mezzanine level.

Lillian Sanchez and Erika Fernandez, both employees of UNITE HERE, won two of the raffle prizes.

NAACP NY Chapter President Anthony Harmon, Secretary-Treasurer Richard Lanigan, Federation of Catholic Teachers President Julia Pignataro, Vice President MaryLou Colucci, Secretary-Treasurer Joanne Perrotta and Local 153 Business Manager Michael Goodwin.

The evening’s raffle winners receive their nifty prizes from Local 153 President Steve Turkeltaub, Secretary-Treasurer Richard Lanigan, Business Manager Michael Goodwin and Vice President Gwendolyn Rushing.

Alexandra Bretenaides, another raffle winner, with Local 153 Sr. Business Representative Myra Hepburn.
Members at Union Health Center Win New Contract

Local 153 members at the Union Health Center (formerly UNITE Health Center) have a new contract! It’s a three-year deal that provides wage increases of 2.75% the first year and 3% in both the second and third years. The contract maintains the members’ health plan, with no premium sharing, and an increase in pension fund contributions. On January 1, 2016 and January 1 every year thereafter, the employer will put $500.00 (five hundred dollars) into the flexible spending account of each member who takes advantage of that benefit. Celebrating the contract are, from left to right, Local 153 Assistant Business Manager John Edmonds and members Pansy Royal, Shop Steward, Arcenia Lora, Robert Arroyo, Sandra Bourdier, Negotiating Committee Member, and Nancy Lugo. Congratulations to them and their co-workers on their new contract!

Have Kids Going to College?
Your Union Membership Can Help!

If there is anything in the U.S. that rises in price faster than medical care it is the cost of college. And that is a very bad omen for our youngest generation because multiple studies have revealed that a completed college education can make a beneficial lifelong difference.

You don’t have to take our word for it, just look at what the U.S. Census Bureau says about the benefits of college. In the most recent report issued by the Bureau that measured differences in income levels, it was revealed that the average gap in earnings between adults with college degrees and those with high school diplomas is almost $28,000 a year. According to this data, college graduates earned an average of $63,700 in 2012, the most recent year measured, compared with $35,800 for adults with a high school diploma. That’s a hefty difference, and it is solid evidence that a college degree is crucial for success in the highly competitive job market young people face today. The report contained other solid evidence of the value of education. It showed that those without a high school diploma or GED earned an average of only $25,200 a year, but that those with advanced college degrees earned nearly $100,000. These differences in income applied to both men and women and across the board for all racial and ethnic groups. We should add that other studies have conclusively proven that college graduates under 30 years of age have a much lower unemployment rate than high school graduates in that same age group.

With statistics like these, no one can deny the value of a college education. At the same time, however, no one can deny that the cost of college tuition is quite high and this includes millions of college graduates who begin their careers saddled with mountains of debt from student loans. That’s why it is important for all of you to know that help is available through your membership in Local 153. Here’s what we mean:

**Union Plus Scholarship Program:** This program has awarded millions of dollars in education grants to union members and their dependents over the last 20 years. Applicants for these awards do NOT have to be Union Plus credit card holders or participants in any other Union Plus program to be eligible to apply for the Union Plus Scholarship Program. Local 153 members and their spouses and dependents are all eligible for these awards, and the scholarships are granted for college or technical school as well as work on a graduate degree. The deadline for applying for Union Plus scholarships is January 31, but members are eligible each year and may win awards multiple times. Further information can be found at the UnionPlus.org website.

**Howard Coughlin Scholarship Program:** This program offers 12 full-time scholarships (one per OPEIU region) and seven part-time awards (also one per OPEIU region), not to exceed one per family. 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 full-time scholarship is $3,250.00 per year for the first two years for a total maximum of $6,500. Each part-time scholarship is $1,325.00 per year for the first two years for a total maximum of $2,650. An application for the Howard Coughlin Scholarship Program can be found in this edition of *Local 153 News* and at OPEIU153.org.

**John Kelly Labor Studies Scholarship Fund:** Ten (10) scholarships per year are awarded on the basis of at least one per region and not to exceed one 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.

*Continued on page 6*
Have Kids Going to College?

Continued from page 5

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.

An application for the John Kelly Scholarship Program can be found at OPEIU153.org.

Hotel Division Members: Children of Local 153 Hotel Division members are eligible for the Hotel Trades Council's scholarships the year they are graduating high school seniors. The Hotel Trades Council awards up to $350,000 each year in four-year college scholarships of $8,000 per student, paid in increments of $2,000 for each of the four years of college. Details can be found at hotelfunds.org

Additional Assistance: We all understand that not every applicant can win a scholarship, but there is other help available for college through your union membership. As an example, we all know that one of the greatest expenses entailed in college is the cost of textbooks. Union Plus has discounts available on both the rental and purchase of textbooks. When you're finished with the textbooks, you can sell them at Union Plus, too, and free USPS or UPS shipping is often included. Another discount available at Union Plus is the saving of 15% to 60% on The Princeton Review's college test preparation courses.

There's more! Union Plus offers discounts to students on items such as Budget truck rentals, AT&T wireless, computers and many other items. The Union Plus website also features webinars on making college more affordable. Profiles of the 150 best-buy schools with quality academics, reasonable tuition, and great financial aid are all available at Union Plus, as well as a book of 200 best value colleges that can be purchased at a discount.

And there is still more help available for college through your union membership, including the following information:

- If your child is planning to enter college in the fall of 2016 or if you are planning to attend college yourself, now is the time to apply for financial aid by filling out a form known as the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA. You can find this form online at fafsa.ed.gov.

- We are told that the earlier you complete the form, the more likely you are to have a head start on the aid money that is available. This year it is estimated that $170 billion in college tuition aid will be available. At the FAFSA website you can determine if you or your child are eligible for college aid and, if so, how much aid you are eligible to receive.

- Filling out the FAFSA form can pay strong dividends. As an example, it is estimated that as many as two million people who did not file a FAFSA form last year would have been eligible for a Pell Grant, which can provide college students with up to $5,775 a year and does not have to be paid back to the federal government. In addition, some of your children may qualify for the SEOG program — federal government grants up to $4,000 that also do not need to be repaid. SEOG grants are extended to students with exceptional financial need, and priority is given to federal Pell Grant recipients. But, remember, you cannot qualify for a Pell Grant, the SEOG program or most other financial assistance programs without filling out a FAFSA form.

- There are also low-cost student loans and work study programs available from the government and other sources. There is a good deal of information on college loans and grants available to you through your union membership at the Union Plus website (unionplus.org). In addition, you can directly access federal college aid and loan programs at this toll-free phone number: 1-800-4-FEDAID (1-800-433-3243). It is the phone number for the Federal Student Aid Information Center, and it is available to assist you Mondays through Fridays, from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

- We know that college education is expensive, but we also know that it is a very valuable investment. Remember, there is plenty of college financing help available, even to students who do not win one of our union's scholarships, and it all begins by filling out a FAFSA form and learning about the other types of student aid that are available through the Union Plus website and other sources.

Labor Continues to Grow in New York State

Nearly 60,000 new union members added

“The Labor Movement has a long and proud history in New York State, and that strength continues today,” said New York State AFL-CIO President Mario Cilento last month. “I’m pleased the latest numbers indicate our Movement is growing.”

According to the latest report by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, New York remains the most unionized state in the country, with 24.7 percent of the workforce belonging to a union, and in fact saw an increase in union membership.

“We are proud to add nearly 60,000 new members to the Labor Movement providing even more dedicated working people with good, solid, middle class jobs and an opportunity for a better life,” Cilento added. “The Labor Movement provides the best way for working people to get ahead; particularly at a time when our economy is so out of balance. We remain committed to fighting for all working people to help grow the middle class.”
Office and Professional Employees Union

Howard Coughlin Memorial Scholarship Fund

APPLICATION FORM

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MAY 31, 2016

PLEASE NOTE: MUST BE FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME, CANNOT APPLY FOR BOTH

I Am Applying For A Full-Time Scholarship ________

I Am Applying For A Part-Time Scholarship ________

Name of Applicant: ________________________________________________________________

Last First Middle

Home Address: _________________________________________________________________

Street City State Zip Code

e-mail __________________________________________ Date of Birth: ________________ Sex: M _______ F _______

SS#/SI# ___________________________________ or Student ID No. ___________________ Telephone: ____________________

Member/Associate Member Name: ________________________________________________

Last First Middle

Members Signature: ______________________________________________________________

Home Address: _________________________________________________________________

Street City State Zip Code

Member/Associate Member Employed By: ____________________________________________ OPEIU Local Union Number: ________________

Relationship to Member/Associate Member: Son_____ Daughter______ Other________

Name of School you are currently attending: __________________________ Date of Graduation: ___________________

What College, University, Technical, or Vocational School do you plan to attend?

First Choice: __________________________________________ Location ____________________________

Second Choice: __________________________________________ Location ____________________________

Third Choice: __________________________________________ Location ____________________________

Have you been accepted by a College, University, Technical, or Vocational School, as of this date? Yes________ No________

If you answered yes, at what College, University, Technical, or Vocational School were you accepted? ___________________

If selected for this scholarship, I fully agree to adhere to the rules that have been established by the Scholarship Committee of the OPEIU Howard Coughlin Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Signature of Applicant: _____________________________________________________________ Date ____________________

Application forms must be endorsed by the Local Union President or Secretary-Treasurer attesting that a member, a parent or guardian of an applicant, or an associate member is in good standing on the date of award. Such endorsement must be obtained before the application is submitted.

Signature of Local Union President or Secretary-Treasurer: __________________________ Date __________________

Local Union Number: ______________________ (Print Name and Title of Signing Officer) __________________________

SEND APPLICATION TO: Howard Coughlin Memorial Scholarship Fund

Office & Professional Employees International Union

80 Eighth Avenue, Suite 610, New York, NY 10011

Telephone: 212.367.0902
Local 153 Fights for Paid Family Leave and Child Care Subsidy Benefits

Local 153’s effort in mobilizing members to win new opportunities for working families is paying dividends! Paid family leave legislation has been passed in both New York City and New York State, and Albany also passed a $15 minimum wage. In addition, a new push for the expansion of child care subsidies for union members is beginning. Local 153 members have been involved at the frontlines in each of these campaigns!

**Paid Family Leave, Minimum Wage**

Last Summer OPEIU Local 153 signed on to a coalition of labor unions advocating for a New York State law that proposed to provide paid leave when a worker experiences the birth of a child, or requires time off to care for an ill family member. On January 7, Mayor Di Blasio signed a new law that guarantees paid family leave time to some New York City workers, which was largely prompted by the advocacy of labor leaders such as Richard Lanigan and Michael Goodwin, among others. Local 153 attended the bill signing at City Hall and continued to advocate for a state-wide paid leave law and an increase in the minimum wage to $15 an hour. Both goals became reality early in April, when they were included in the state budget. Both the $15 minimum wage and paid leave will be phased in throughout the state, the latter beginning on January 1, 2018. *Local 153 News* will have full details in our next edition.

**Child Care**

Since July, 2015 Local 153 has been coordinating meetings with the New York Union Child Care Coalition (NYUCCC) to bring grant funded child care subsidies to our members. As a result of this partnership, dozens of Local 153 members are offsetting their annual child care expenses simply because they are members of our local. Activists interested in participating in child care events may contact Local 153 Organizing Director Nick Galipeau at: galipeaun@gmail.com.

As we go to press, multiple members of Local 153 have been approved for more than $15,000 in annual subsidies each to pay for child care and after school programs! On February 9, Local 153 signed on to support Advocacy Day at the State Assembly in Albany with other NYUCCC partners. The event was designed to provide an opportunity for recipients and supporters of the child care subsidy to lobby legislators toward the continuation and expansion of these vital benefits. Currently, the subsidies are only available for our OPEIU Local 153 members that live or work in designated areas of New York City. By utilizing our union’s power, Local 153 aims to help create an opportunity for all our members to become eligible for similar benefits.

Visit OSHA on the Internet

Workers can now use their home computers to visit OSHA, the nation’s workplace health and safety enforcement agency! OSHA’s website — www.osha.gov — contains background information about workers’ rights and employer responsibilities, and it also provides electronic links to many sources of information about occupational safety and health issues.

Workers can even use the website to file complaints with OSHA about health and safety hazards in the workplace.

By going to the “Workers Page” at www.osha.gov, workers will find a form that takes about 10 minutes to fill out. The form is automatically transmitted for follow-up to the appropriate OSHA office.
Local 153 Benefits and Services

- **Towing/Service Call Benefit**—All Local 153 members are eligible to receive a towing/service call benefit through Nation Safe Drivers, providing up to two towing/service calls per year, per household, valued at up to $100 each. The benefit applies to all Local 153 members, as well as family members living in the same household. For further information or to use this benefit, please call 1-800-617-2677.

- **Identity Theft Protection**—A fully-managed identity theft restoration program for Local 153 members and family members living in the same household. The program includes a professionally trained advocate assigned to all identity theft victims who will perform a fully-managed identity restoration program. It also includes a monitoring program for identity information that is traded or sold. Members should go to www.local153opeiu.com/ to learn more or call 855-990-0994 to register for this free benefit.

- **Death and Accidental Death and Dismemberment Benefits**—Local 153 provides members in good standing with twelve (12) consecutive months or more of membership, with a $5,000 death benefit and a $5,000 accidental death and dismemberment benefit. In addition, OPEIU will provide members in good standing with an additional $2,000 death benefit and a $2,000 accidental death and dismemberment benefit. Together, members are covered for a total of $7,000 death benefit and $7,000 accidental death and dismemberment benefit. For further information, contact your Chief Steward or call Local 153 at (212) 741-8251.

- **Supplementary Disability/Workers Compensation Benefit**—A flat, once-a-year benefit will be paid to members in good standing for 12 months or more in the following amounts: 6 weeks-12 weeks . . . $300 maximum; 13 weeks-18 weeks . . . $600 maximum; 19 weeks-24 weeks . . . $900 maximum; 25 or more weeks . . . $1,200 maximum (50% for part-timers). Members must be current with payment of dues. In the event dues are not checked off by the employer while the member is on disability, the member must send dues payments directly to Local 153. (212) 741-8251

- **Dental Care**—Top quality dental care at reasonable rates may be obtained by members at the following Manhattan location—Group Health Dental Facility, 230 West 41st St. (between Seventh & Eighth Avenues) Phone (212) 398-9690. (Emblem Dental is accepted as payment-in-full for most services.)

- **Metrodent Dental Access Plan**—Offers members a means of reducing the high cost of dental care through a network of dentists and specialists who provide substantial savings of up to 35 percent on dental care. If you have not received information or have questions, call Local 153 at (212) 741-8250.

- **Vision Care**—Top quality vision services are available to Local 153 members at General Vision Services in all five boroughs, Westchester County, Long Island, and New Jersey. Members of the Local 153 Health Fund receive varying benefits, depending on the plan. Non-members receive discounts, too. If you are a member of the Health Fund call (212) 292-4682 for details and locations. All other union members should call (212) 741-8250.

- **Auto Insurance Discount**—An Accident Prevention/Defensive Driving class is available to members at no cost. Successful completion of the class will allow members with New York State drivers’ licenses to get an immediate 10 percent rate reduction on liability and collision premiums for three years, along with up to four points automatically deducted from their record by the Department of Motor Vehicles. In New Jersey the premium reduction is 5 percent and up to two points deducted. Unfortunately, Connecticut does not yet have such a program. For information, call Victoria Tirado-Roman at (212) 675-3210.

- **Union Purchasing Plan**—Furniture and household furnishings at reduced prices. UPP Plaza Furniture is located at 121 Front Street, Massapequa Park, NY 11762. Phone: (516) 799-3500.

- **Local 153 Retirees Association**—Dues for retired members are $21 per year, and for $60 a year, retired members receive additional benefits, including a $2,000 Accidental Death and Dismemberment benefit, the WellDyne Rx discount program that include dental, prescription drugs, vision, hearing and two (2) towing/service calls per year valued up to $100 each. For further information, call (212) 741-8262.

- **Working Advantage Discounts**—Provides discounts on movie tickets, video rentals, shows, theme parks, sporting events, online shopping and more. To use this program, visit www.workingadvantage.com and register as a Local 153 member by clicking on the right hand side of the home page and entering ID no. 924400144.

- **Union Support Services**—For information regarding alcohol and drug problems, please call 212-741-8251.
Office and Professional Employees International Union, Local 153
Statements of Revenue and Expenses — Cash Basis
For the six months ended December 31, 2015

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, 2015, in accordance with standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

GENERAL FUND
Cash balance and investments—July 1, 2015 $ 321,428

Revenue Received
Dues $ 3,421,303
Initiation Fees 28,092
Welfare and Pension Funds—Reimbursed Administrative Expenses 63,435
O.P.E.I.U.—Reimbursed Administrative Expenses 101,297
Federation of Catholic School Teachers—Reimbursed Admin. Expenses 12,560
O.P.E.I.U.—Subsidy 45,000
Interest Income 10
Sale of Discounted Movie and Great Adventure Tickets (Membership Benefit) 7,209
Cancelled Old Outstanding Checks 3,133
Total Revenue Received 3,682,039

Expenses Paid
Salaries 772,203
Officers' and Business Agents' Expenses 27,410
Automobile Expenses 90,113
Per Capita Taxes:
Office and Professional Employees International Union 1,005,049
O.P.E.I.U. Strike Benefit and Defense Fund 223,469
Long Island Federation of Labor 2,640
New York City Central Labor Council 18,809
Dues to Affiliated Organizations 7,698
Legal and Arbitration 89,205
Reporting Service 989
Organizing Expenses 14,043
Negotiation Expenses 7,547
Lost Time Wages 8,912
Shop Stewards’ Expenses 22,598
Conferences and Conventions 32,338
Meeting Hall Rents 4,134
Executive Board and Trustees' Meetings 20,414
Consultants 9,075
Rent and Electric 277,433
Telephone 8,745
Auditing and Accounting 9,600
Office Machine Maintenance and Rentals 41,899
Stationery and Office Supplies 18,788
General Office 7,830
Postage and Mailing 48,816
Insurance 34,636
Computer Maintenance and Support 23,752
Flowers 875
Automatic Data Processing 2,603
Staff 401(k) Administrative Fees 1,019
Employee Health Benefits 260,023

Total Expenses Paid 3,682,039

Net Change in Cash and Investments $ 0

Office and Professional Employees International Union, Local 153
Statements of Revenue and Expenses — Cash Basis
For the six months ended December 31, 2015
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Life Insurance</td>
<td>40,422</td>
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<tr>
<td>Employee Pension Trust Funds</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Movie and Great Adventure Tickets (Membership Benefit)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Member and Retirement Awards</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tickets, Ads, Contributions, etc.</td>
<td>32,863</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational and Publicity</td>
<td>22,527</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O.P.E.I.U. Local 153 Newsletter</td>
<td>35,378</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfers to Local 153 Defense Fund</td>
<td>258,325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retiree Activities &amp; Expenses</td>
<td>3,425</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holiday Expenses</td>
<td>8,032</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Returned Checks</td>
<td>404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of Fixed Assets</td>
<td>1,626</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employees Withholding Taxes</td>
<td>164,671</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Government and NYS Payroll Taxes</td>
<td>57,290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenses Paid before Withholding Taxes</td>
<td>3,936,124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: Employees Withholding Tax Deductions</td>
<td>167,476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenses Paid</td>
<td>3,768,648</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Investments</td>
<td>(86,609)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash Balance and Investments—December 31, 2015</td>
<td>$ 234,819</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DISPOSITION OF FUNDS**

**HSBC:**
- Checking Account: $172,647
- Settlement Account: 24,089
- Retirees Account: 22,625

**Amalgamated Bank of New York:**
- Money Market Account: 10,389
- Banco Popular: 3,869
- Petty Cash: 700
- State of Israel Bond (at cost): 500
- Total Cash: $234,819

**DEFENSE FUND**

Cash Balance—July 1, 2015: $966,179

**Revenue Received**
- Transfers from Local 153 General Fund: $258,325
- Interest Income: 429
- Cancelled Old Outstanding Checks: 900
- Total Revenue Received: 259,654

**Expenses Paid**

Membership Benefits:
- Disability Benefits: 21,600
- Life Insurance (Death Benefits): 47,615
- Member Identity Theft Program: 15,861
- Labor Day Expenses: 14,702
- Organizing Expenses: 40,000
- Tickets, Ads, Contributions, etc.: 10,000
- Payments to Affiliated Organizations: 46,668
- Stationary and Office Supplies: 255
- Office Maintenance: 4,858
- Purchase of Fixed Assets: 1,813
- Total Expenses Paid: 203,372

Increase in Cash: 56,282

Cash Balance — December 31, 2015: $1,022,461

**DISPOSITION OF FUNDS**

- Amalgamated Bank — Checking Account: $687,215
- Amalgamated Bank — Savings Account: 3,114
- Chase Bank — Savings Account: 223,306
- Amalgamated Bank — Letter of Credit Account: 913,635
- Amalgamated Bank — Letter of Credit Account: 82,513
- Amalgamated Bank — Letter of Credit Account: 26,313
- Total: $1,022,461
Local 153 News
Office and Professional Employees International Union, AFL-CIO
265 West 14th Street • New York, NY 10011
Address Service Requested

Union Fund Offers Subsidized Benefits for Members

Continued from page 1

All benefits referred to above cover members and eligible dependents, except life insurance, AD&D and Short Term Disability (STD) which are “member’s only” benefits and hearing aids and Lasik eye surgery which are “member and spouse”.

Goodwin stated that the subsidized rates offered to employers are guaranteed, without increase, for three years. Any employer currently covering its bargaining unit employees through the Local 153 Benefits Fund can reduce the rates they currently pay to the lower subsidized rates, if they also agree to provide any one of the five benefits referred to above through the Fund. These benefits can be agreed to by any employer at any time, without regard to contract limitations.

Local 153 Business Representatives will be discussing the details of the program with members and employers. If anyone has any questions, please contact George Bueno at gbueno@opeiu-tristate.org or call (212) 741-8258 or contact your Business Representative.

COST TO EMPLOYERS FOR SUBSIDIZED BENEFITS

** Dental Benefits (ULLICO) $30 per employee per month

* Short Term Disability ($615 week up to 26 weeks) $20 per employee per month

** Optical Benefits ($50 exam/$150 eyeglasses) $5 per employee per month

* Life Insurance ($.20 per $1,000/ e.g. $10,000) $2 per employee per month

*** Hearing Aid/Lasik Eye Surgery $10 per employee per month

* Gym Reimbursement — No cost to employers who provide any one of the above benefits. Reimbursement of 50% to employees up to $100 per year.

Guaranteed Rates — All rates will remain in effect, without increase, for three years and then set at market rates. Continued employer participation in the Local 153 Benefits Fund for any one of the above benefits after three years is negotiable. These benefits can be obtained by any employer at any time without regard to contract limitations.

* Members only

** Member and eligible dependents

*** Member and spouse only