Members Celebrate Local 153 Family Day!

Local 153's annual Family Day drew a huge crowd to Coney Island, where members and their families enjoyed the sand and surf, amusement park rides, the famous boardwalk and a free ballgame, too. Each year new rides are being added along the strand and Coney Island remains as fun-filled as it has been since the 1890s.

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Among those celebrating Local 153 Family Day at Coney Island are Miguel Ruiz, St. Regis Hotel, Felix Gonzalez, Warwick Hotel, Emilio Choque, NY Hilton, Maritza Rosa, Advantage Health Care, and their families. Local 153 Assistant Business Manager John Edmonds, Business Manager Michael Goodwin and Senior Business Representative Seth Goldstein.

Membership Meetings Matter

Those who attended the most recent Local 153 General Membership Meeting were treated to a very informative presentation on the Taxpayer Advocate Service (TAS), a chance to meet with the union’s officers and an opportunity to participate in a raffle with terrific prizes. In addition, everyone who attended received an invitation to participate in the fun-filled Local 153 Family Day that was held at Coney Island on July 14. In addition to free attendance at the Cyclones’ baseball game that evening, participants rode some of the most thrilling rides anywhere on the planet and strolled one of the world’s most famous boardwalks.

In his report to members, Local 153 Business Manager Michael Goodwin reviewed the political landscape of the country and the importance of participation in the election process. He also spoke about

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Business Manager Michael Goodwin speaking at the May General Membership Meeting

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By Michael Goodwin, Business Manager

**A window of opportunity**

In November 2018, Americans will go to the polls to determine which party controls the House of Representatives and to elect one-third of the United States Senate. This election will provide a window of opportunity to end the chaos in Washington DC and to change the direction that our country has been going in since the new administration took office in January 2017.

As you know, there were a series of Executive Orders issued virtually immediately by the new administration to reverse or thwart hundreds of policies set in place over the previous eight years. Almost all of these Executive Orders had a negative effect on middle class workers and their environment. The U.S. Congress did little to slow down or stop the flow of these negative actions. It seems that so many members of Congress are scared to death that the administration will go after them in their districts or states on Election Day.

The administration and its supporters in Congress have made it clear that they will stop at absolutely nothing to continue their program to undo all of the progress that has been made over so many years. If you care about protecting access to affordable health care, protecting the health of our environment, ensuring equality for women and passing common sense gun laws, then now is the time to act. It is not an exaggeration to say that the future of the country is on the line. We must do something to make a change - not doing so makes the cost too high!

You as a voter have the power to make a change in November 2018 by participating in the democratic process and making sure that you get out and vote on Election Day. This is your chance to elect representatives of “like thinking” who believe in justice and equality for all. We know that nothing ever happens by chance - we need to participate to make it happen. There is momentum on our side now, with Americans taking politics personally this year and they demonstrate, march and protest against changes in Washington, DC. Unfortunately, the time to demonstrate, march and protest was more appropriate in November 2016 when the decision as to who would guide this country for the next four years was being decided.

The next chance we have to slow down or stop the steamroller effect of the current administration is in November, 2018. Voter apathy has cost the loss of control of the White House and the Congress. We can’t let that happen again. The real question is: are we going to replay in 2018 our lack of participation that we did in previous elections . . . or are we going to take our right to vote seriously and participate in the decision making process this year?
Membership Meetings Matter

Continued from page 1

some future benefits the union is hoping to bring to members and their families.

Do you know about the easy-to-use but extremely valuable OPEIU smart phone app? Those who attended the General Membership Meeting learned all about it from OPEIU President and Local 153 Secretary-Treasurer Richard Lanigan.

There’s more. Those who attended the meeting not only learned about using TAS but the value in doing so. TAS is an independent organization that operates within the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Members also received a review of the many benefits and services available to them and their families. New members were sworn into the union and, at the meeting’s conclusion, all in attendance had the opportunity to ask questions and learn answers from the officers and Business Representatives who were present.

Membership meetings are a perfect way to get up-to-date information about Local 153’s benefits and services. They always feature interesting reports and informative guest speakers. Not only that, but those who attend have the chance to win great prizes like those seen in this edition of Local 153 News.

The next Local 153 membership meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 25 at 6:00 P.M. at the Gertrude Lane Auditorium, 305 West 44th Street (corner of 8th Avenue) mezzanine level, in Manhattan.

OPEIU President and Local 153 Secretary-Treasurer Richard Lanigan informing members about the OPEIU app for smart phones.

Deidania Herrera, Adriana Ruiz and Sharon Sykes, all employees of the HTC Brooklyn Health Center, show their invitations to Local 153 Family Day at Coney Island. Everyone who attended the May General Membership Meeting received an invitation.

Here are the raffle winners from the May Local 153 Membership Meeting. Among the terrific prizes were an Acer laptop computer, a rugged Bluetooth and a Smart Home starter kit. From left to right are: Von Steward, Harlem Health Center, Julia Pignataro, FCT, Francine Suarez, GVS, Monteria Green, Yankee Stadium, Pierre Agadov, Sofitel, and Danny Farber, Hotel Wellington.

Those who attend Local 153 Membership Meetings have the opportunity to ask questions and learn answers from the union’s officers and Business Representatives. Here, with Business Manager Michael Goodwin, are Anthony Best and Juan Borbon of the Kimpton Muse Hotel, and Maria Colon of 32-BJ.

The Local 153 General Membership Meeting held in May.

New members being sworn into Local 153.
Members Celebrate Local 153 Family Day!

Continued from page 1
Many members and their families used the day as an opportunity to meet with Local 153 officers, and more than a few families attended the Brooklyn Cyclones baseball game free of charge. It was a great, fun-filled day for all, as photos in this edition show, and we are already looking forward to Local 153 Family Day 2019!

Danette Torres, SEIU 32 BJ Health Fund, and family.

Rolando Santiago, Park Central Hotel, and family.

Shaniqua Dennis, Harlem Health Center, and family were among the many members who attended Local 153 Family Day at Coney Island.

Lee Vann, EmblemHealth, and family.

Lots of members had fun riding these race cars (and others enjoyed bumper cars!).

We know lots of members’ children enjoyed the day, finished off with a baseball game with hot dogs and ice cream.

Family members of Eileen Dupont enjoying the day at Coney Island.
2018 Scholarship Winners Announced…
It Pays to Belong!

We are happy to announce that three more college scholarships have been awarded to children of Local 153 members since our last edition! In these photos we have 2018 OPEIU Howard Coughlin Scholarship Award Winner Will Carmello accepting his $6500 national award from OMCE President Barbara Zaron. Also pictured are Will Carmello’s father, William Carmello, a member of OMCE, and OMCE Executive Director Joe Sano. In the bottom photos Local 153 Business Manager Michael Goodwin presents Vito J. Pitta scholarship awards to Kristi Fung, daughter of Local 153 member Ngai Hon, and Hotel Association President Veejay Dandapani; and, right photo, Vanessa Ferreras, daughter of Local 153 member Robert Ramos Morales and Hotel Trades Council Executive Vice President Chris Cusack. Kristi and Vanessa each received awards of $8,000!

For more information on these scholarships and others, please see the Local 153 Benefits Booklet at opeiu153.org
Members at Equity League Win New Contract

These Local 153 members employed at the Equity League are celebrating their new contract that provides a nine percent (9%) increase over three years. In addition, there are no givebacks contained in the agreement. Congratulations!

Myra Hepburn
Honored by NAACP

On the evening of June 15th Local 153 Senior Business Representative Myra Hepburn received the Freedom Fund Award from the New York Chapter of the NAACP. Anthony Harmon, President of the Chapter, seen in this photo with Myra, introduced her as a true champion of labor and a tireless fighter for civil rights and social justice. He noted that her work spans both the East Coast and the West Coast and has enhanced her growth from Organizer to Senior Business Representative. The prestigious award was presented to Ms. Hepburn by Local 153 Business Manager Michael Goodwin.

Sandra Datnarain
Honored

Sandra Datnarain, who is Local 153’s bookkeeper, has also served on Community Board # 9 for the past 10 years. We are pleased to report that Ms. Datnarain was recently recognized for her decade of outstanding and dedicated service to the Community Board and the borough of Queens. She is seen here receiving the honor from Queens Borough President Melinda Katz. All of Local 153 joins together in saluting Sandra on her commitment to her community and Queens County. Congratulations, Sandra!
New Jersey COPE Conference

The New Jersey AFL-CIO conducted its annual COPE conference in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Local 153 sent Eugene Taylor, the Shop Steward from Public Service Electric & Gas (PSE&G), Richard C. Knowles, Chief Shop Steward, Depository Clearing Company and several Business Representative to attend the conference.

The New Jersey AFL-CIO has been successful in helping union members and their families be elected into public office in the state of New Jersey for over 20 years. In fact, the program has been successful enough to have had nearly 1,000 union members elected to various public offices in that time frame.

Many New Jersey public officials, several members of Congress and newly elected New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy were among those who attended this conference.

Governor Murphy continues to pledge to help the working men and women in New Jersey. He said he will continue to fight for paid sick leave, paid family leave, an increase in minimum wage, funding for the state’s pension plan and more.

“Our attendance at this conference was for good reason,” Business Manager Michael Goodwin said. “Local 153 is committed to electing public officials that support working men and women.”

Ocean County Board of Social Services

Local 153 has two separate contracts at the Ocean County Board of Social Services, and has reached new contracts for both bargaining groups, the supervisory unit and the administrative, clerical, fiscal and maintenance (ACFM) unit.

The supervisory unit added a new job title called Assistant Supervising Maintenance Repairer Clerk 4. In addition, all bilingual supervisors will receive a one-time $1,500 increase to their base salary. Effective January 1, 2018, 2019 and 2020 each employee shall receive 2.5% added to their base salary. This is significant because there has been a 2% cap on wage increases for public sector employees in New Jersey for over seven years.

There’s more. There is an increase in the minimum rates of pay for each job classification, and the union negotiated language for the Voice of the Electorate Fund for volunteers’ political contributions.

Also, there has been a freeze on tuition and other related benefits for years. The union negotiated a fund of $5,000 for 2019 and an additional $5,000 for 2020 for bargaining unit employees’ tuition, fees, books and other related expenses. Each bargaining unit employee shall be reimbursed up to $500 per contract year.

The ACFM unit received the same wage increases, VOTE Fund contributions and educational benefits as the supervisors and bargaining unit members also received increases in minimum rates of pay for each job classification.
Office and Professional Employees International Union, Local 153

Statements of Cash Receipts and Disbursements

For the six months ended June 30, 2018

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 cash receipts and disbursements of Office and Professional Employees International Union, Local 153 — for the six months ended June 30, 2018, in accordance with standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

**GENERAL FUND**

Cash Balance and investments—January 1, 2018 $ 594,647

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash Receipts</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dues</td>
<td>$3,398,865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initiations</td>
<td>33,410</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health and Pension Funds—Reimbursed Administrative Expenses</td>
<td>75,616</td>
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<tr>
<td>O.P.E.I.U.—Reimbursed Administrative Expenses</td>
<td>106,953</td>
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<tr>
<td>Federation of Catholic School Teachers—Reimbursed Admin. Expenses</td>
<td>15,175</td>
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<tr>
<td>O.P.E.I.U.—Subsidy</td>
<td>106,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transfers from Local 153 GF Reserve Fund</td>
<td>169,599</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sale of Discounted Movie Tickets (Membership Benefit)</td>
<td>8,179</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proceed from Local 376 Merger</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Cash Receipts</td>
<td>$3,919,423</td>
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</table>

| **Cash Disbursements**                                                    |            |
| Salaries                                                                   | 740,236    |
| Officers’ and Business Agents’ Expenses                                    | 21,015     |
| Automobile Expenses                                                       | 76,158     |
| Per Capita Taxes:                                                         |            |
| Office and Professional Employees International Union                      | 920,009    |
| O.P.E.I.U. Strike Benefit and Defense Fund                                 | 208,393    |
| Long Island Federation of Labor                                           | 3,260      |
| New York City Central Labor Council                                       | 23,716     |
| Dues to Affiliated Organizations                                          | 7,568      |
| Arbitration Expenses                                                      | 1,425      |
| Organizing Expenses                                                       | 1,725      |
| Negotiation Expenses                                                      | 11,825     |
| Lost Time Wages                                                           | 17,063     |
| Shop Stewards’ Expenses                                                   | 13,517     |
| Conferences and Conventions                                               | 50,744     |
| Meeting Hall Rents                                                        | 425        |
| Executive Board and Trustees’ Meetings                                    | 33,646     |
| Consultants                                                               | 7,094      |
| Rent and Electric                                                         | 350,657    |
| Temporary Help                                                            | 26,589     |
| Telephone, Internet and Cable                                             | 6,882      |
| Office Machine Maintenance and Rentals                                    | 45,570     |
| Office Supplies and Printing                                              | 18,535     |
| General Office                                                            | 6,679      |
| Postage and Mailing                                                       | 28,960     |
| Insurance                                                                 | 31,784     |
| Computer Maintenance and Support                                          | 34,144     |
| Flowers                                                                   | 657        |
| Auditing and Accounting                                                   | 10,800     |
Automatic Data Processing 3,792
Employee Health Benefits 313,165
Life Insurance 5,811
Employee Pension Trust Funds 218,187
Purchase of Discounted Movie Tickets (Membership Benefit) 7,530
Member and Retirement Awards 1,000
Tickets, Ads, Contributions, etc. 44,982
Educational and Publicity 20,717
O.P.E.I.U. Local 153 Newsletter 32,477
Transfers to Local 153 Defense Fund 267,748
Transfers to Local 153 GF Reserve Fund 130,308
Retiree Activities & Expenses 6,424
Raffle Winners and Gifts 7,089
Interest 54
Employees Withholding Taxes 492,311
U.S. Government and NYS Payroll Taxes 63,889
Expenses Paid before Withholding Taxes 4,316,568
Less: Employees Withholding Tax Deductions 492,311
**Total Cash Disbursements** 3,824,257
Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Investments 95,166
Cash Balance and Investments—June 30, 2018 $ 689,813

**DISPOSITION OF FUNDS**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>HSBC:</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Checking Account</td>
<td>$ 600,920</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHCP Settlement Account</td>
<td>24,089</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retirees Account</td>
<td>19,965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banco Popular</td>
<td>43,639 688,613</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petty Cash</td>
<td>700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Israel Bond (at cost)</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$ 689,813</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DEFENSE FUND**

Cash Balance—January 1, 2018 $ 414,752

**Cash Receipts**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transfers from Local 153 General Fund</th>
<th>$ 267,748</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interest Income</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Cash Receipts</strong></td>
<td>267,838</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Cash Disbursements**

Membership Benefits:
- Disability Benefits 72,900
- Life Insurance (Death Benefits) 28,636
- Member Health Care Claim 915
- Labor Day Expenses 8,109
- Rally Expenses 2,482
- Payments to Affiliated Organizations 75,593
- Legal and Arbitration 88,680
- Consultants 5,000
- Tickets, Ads, Contributions, etc. 10,000

**Total Cash Disbursements** 292,315
Increase (Decrease) in Cash (24,477)
Cash Balance — June 30, 2018 $ 390,275

**DISPOSITION OF FUNDS**

| Amalgamated Bank — Checking Account | $ 53,842 |
| Amalgamated Bank — Savings Account  | 3,122    |
| Chase Bank — Savings Account       | 223,721  |
| Amalgamated Bank — Letter of Credit Account | 83,092 |
| Amalgamated Bank — Letter of Credit Account | 26,498 |
| **Total**                           | $ 390,275|
Local 153 GF Reserve Fund

Cash Balance—January 1, 2018

Cash Receipts
Transfers from Local 153 General Fund $130,308
Interest Income 83
Total Cash Receipts 130,391

Cash Disbursements
Transfers to Local 153 General Fund 169,599
Office supplies and Printing 11,164
Total Cash Disbursements 180,763
Increase (Decrease) in Cash (50,372)
Cash Balance — June 30, 2018 $148,102

Disposition of Funds
Amalgamated Bank of New York:
Money Market Account $148,102
Total $148,102

Local 153 Shop Stewards Training

Federal Mediation and Conciliation Services personnel conducted training on collective bargaining in June to Local 153 Shop Stewards. FMCS Commissioners William Domini, Ralph Quattrocchi and Nelson Rivera provided the very valuable instruction. More than 20 Shop Stewards attended the meeting.

The discussion started with being prepared for negotiations such as meeting with the membership, surveys for proposals, drafting proposals and setting a strategy for bargaining sessions. Another topic covered the importance of being professional when addressing issues or concerns with members and management. There were role playing exercises such as getting information and passing it along to others who were not present and how that information can be interpreted differently or take on a whole other meaning.

The Shop Stewards were pleased with the training and requested additional training in other areas. Local 153 is scheduling other trainings for Shop Stewards and union activists in New Jersey and Connecticut for the Fall of 2018.
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 $80 each. You will need a “producer code” for “plan letter C”.

For information, call 212-741-8270

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Call 212-741-8261

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

Call Victoria at 212-675-3210

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

▶ 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
NOTICE OF IMPORTANT MEETING

There will be a Local 153 General Membership meeting to be held on Tuesday, September 25, 2018 at 6:00 P.M. at the Gertrude Lane Auditorium, 305 West 44th Street (corner of 8th Avenue) – mezzanine level, New York, NY 10036.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS — NOMINATION OF OFFICERS

Nominations for President, Vice President, Recording-Secretary, Business Manager, Secretary-Treasurer, 3 Trustees and 25 Executive Board members for a 3-year term of office will be held at this meeting in accordance with Article IX, Sections 2, 3 and 6 of the Constitution and By-Laws of OPEIU Local 153. Nominations for 5 alternate delegates to the OPEIU Convention will also be held at this meeting.