Contract Extension Reached with Blue Cross Blue Shield

A contract extension was reached with HealthNow New York, Inc. on July 27, Local 153 Business Representative Robert McLennan announced. The company is doing business as Blue Cross Blue Shield of Western New York, located in Buffalo, and the deal was considered significant enough to warrant media coverage in the area.

There are 440 bargaining unit employees at Blue Cross Blue Shield, and they were formerly members of OPEIU Local 212, which merged into Local 153 in 2013. There was a past history of conflict and strikes between the union and the employer, but that relationship has dramatically improved in recent years.

Local 153 was party to a collective bargaining agreement with the company that was scheduled to expire in April, 2017.

Continued on page 16

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RESPONSIBILITY TO VOTE

This year, more than ever, all of us have a responsibility to vote on November 8. If we don’t exercise RESPONSIBILITY, then IRRESPONSIBLE leadership could prevail in the person of Donald Trump.

Losing elections because Democrats didn’t show up to vote cost the American public dearly in 2010 and 2014, and has led to gridlock in Washington DC. This gridlock has led to the emergence of Donald Trump who has nothing to offer, but has been able to “push the buttons” of frustrated Americans who haven’t participated in the recovery since the “Great Recession” of 2008. You get the feeling that Donald Duck could be elected in this environment, if the famous Disney character was nominated by the Republican Party. Incredibly, Donald Trump has shown us that his ideas of governing and becoming Commander-in-Chief of the United States of America aren’t that much different from what we could have expected from Donald Duck. There is no need to go into all of the crazy and irresponsible statements made by the Republican Party nominee—you are no doubt aware of them. But the fact remains that by not voting, you would be empowering those ideas and weak-kneed members of Congress would follow the bully in the White House.

Donald Trump is unqualified to be President as expressed by so many of his Republican peers who have said so publicly—some even coming right out and saying they will vote for the Democratic Party nominee. Unfortunately, the Republican Party rules do not easily allow removal of a nominee, so it appears that we are stuck with Donald Trump on the November ballot. Many of the millions of voters who supported him in the Republican primary are having second thoughts now.

The history of the world teaches us that it is not uncommon for people like Donald Trump to come to power on similar themes, only to become big mistakes.

We can’t afford to let a big mistake happen here, and it’s up to us to make sure it doesn’t happen. Don’t add your names to the historical list of people who said after the fact, “we didn’t know.” You do know and you must do something about it. The American people cannot afford a repeat of 2010 and 2014 where apathy and frustration led people to stay home on Election Day. The stakes are too high.

Think about the implications of the Supreme Court alone. The next President will get to appoint two or three justices, and the wrong pick could reverse the long-standing federal policy on workers’ rights to organize and join unions, wipe Roe v. Wade off the books on women’s right to choose and reverse a series of rulings on LGBTQ rights.

Considering the numerous exhibitions of a short-fuse retaliatory temperament we have seen from Donald Trump in just the last few weeks, do we really want to give him the nuclear codes that would empower him to wipe out humanity? Do we really want to lessen our support for NATO which defends our allies in a united front? Do we really want to befriend Vladimir Putin of Russia or arm Japan, South Korea and Saudi Arabia with nuclear weapons as Donald Trump has suggested? I could go on and on, but you get the point—the message is that you have a responsibility to vote on Election Day. The implications are far too grave to stay home that day.
OPEIU Endorses Hillary Clinton; She Vows to Stand Up for Workers, Secure Equal Pay for Women

Hillary Clinton visiting the Trump Taj Mahal strikers’ picket line in Atlantic City, New Jersey in July. Many Local 153 members, especially Hotel Division members, have been traveling to Atlantic City to support the strikers.

“I am honored to have again earned the endorsement of the Office and Professional Employees International Union,” Hillary Clinton said in a recent statement recognizing OPEIU’s endorsement of her candidacy for the office of President of the United States of America.

“OPEIU and its members make our economy run. American workers built the middle class by fighting for higher wages, retirement security, and the right to collectively bargain. Now, working families are under attack by Republicans who want to strip workers of their hard-won rights and keep stacking the deck for those at the top,” Mrs. Clinton said.

“As president, I will stand up for workers and fight attacks on collective bargaining,” Clinton continued. “I will fight to protect retirement security and finally secure equal pay for women and paid family leave for all — because when unions are strong, families are strong, and when families are strong, America is strong.”

Mrs. Clinton has the endorsement of more than 50 national labor unions and labor alliances representing more than 13 million employees.
Local 153 Members Support Taj Mahal Strikers

After repeated attempts to achieve a fair contract were unsuccessful, workers at Atlantic City’s Trump Taj Mahal were left with no choice but to go on strike on July 1.

The strikers are members of UNITE HERE Local 54 and they are determined to win a fair agreement from the hotel, which emerged from bankruptcy earlier this year. The hotel is not owned by Donald Trump, but rather by Carl Icahn, a man that Trump has suggested could serve as U.S. Treasury Secretary.

The strikers are receiving support from Hotel Trades Council members, including many Local 153 members, who journey to Atlantic City to assist in picketing. The workers received additional support on July 6, when Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton spoke at a rally at the hotel and later greeted picketers personally.

“It’s inspiring to see so many members of the Hotel Trades Council and Local 153 traveling to Atlantic City to show support for their union brothers and sisters,” OPEIU President and Local 153 Secretary-Treasurer Richard Lanigan said. “As we saw recently at Verizon, it’s this kind of solidarity that wins fights against greedy employers.” As we went to press, Carl Icahn was threatening to close the hotel after Labor Day. But the workers remain steadfast in their effort to win a fair contract.

New Benefit! Online Defensive Driving Course

At the general membership meeting held on Tuesday, May 17, OPEIU President and Local 153 Secretary-Treasurer Richard Lanigan announced to the membership a new benefit that would be available to members in good standing—an online Accident Prevention/Defensive Driving course.

The benefit became effective June 1 and members can take advantage of it right now!

The Defensive Driving Online Course is available to Local 153 members in English and Spanish at a low cost of $10.

Upon successful completion of the six-hour course, members with New York State drivers’ licenses will receive a 10% rate reduction on liability and collision premiums for seven years, along with a reduction of up to four points on their driving records for those who have moving violations. The discount applies to any vehicles where members are listed as the principle operators.

Members with New Jersey drivers’ licenses will receive a 5% rate reduction on liability and collision premiums for three years, along with a reduction of up to two points on their driving record if they have moving violations.

The six-hour class can be completed in the comfort of your home and members can log on and off as often as needed until the course is completed. Members have up to 30 days to complete the defensive driving course at their convenience and there is telephone support service available. A receipt of course completion will be sent to New York’s or New Jersey’s Department of Motor Vehicles.

Members will find additional details and the online registration form at Local 153’s website: opeiu153.org

After the online registration form is completed, the union will confirm that you are a member in good standing. You will then be contacted and provided with a user name and password, and your $10 payment by credit card will be accepted. This new benefit not only provides a discount to members, it gives them the opportunity to invest six hours of their own time to receive auto insurance rate reductions that could be worth hundreds of dollars.
Management/Confidential Parity Increases Won!

The state’s 9,800 management/confidential employees received some good news on Monday, April 25: Their two percent (2%) parity payments will arrive on May 26 or June 1, depending on whether they are on the so-called institutional or administrative payrolls.

Barbara Zaron, President of OPEIU Local 153-affiliated union, OMCE (The Organization of NYS Management/Confidential Employees Inc.) announced that the NYS Division of the Budget has published the required authorizations for the payment of these monies.

These payments are made pursuant to Part H Chapter 55 of the Laws of 2015, which established a four-year parity payment plan for MC employees. In 2009 and 2010, due to the financial meltdown of the national and state economy, previously authorized raises of a cumulative seven percent (7%) were withheld by then Governor David Paterson. OMCE lost its legal challenge in the courts, resulting in a need for a legislative remedy, which the union ultimately won.

Management/confidential employees in the public sector were removed from the Taylor Law (NYS Public Sector Bargaining Rights) in 1972, and this left OMCE with the need to rely on its legal and legislative initiatives to protect its members’ rights.

OMCE Executive Director Joe Sano said this year’s raises are a bit earlier than last year’s two percent (2%) increases.

“The increases were posted on the budget bulletin May 8, last year. “They turned this around much quicker in 2016,” said Sano.

Additionally, the performance awards or step raises will be paid to all eligible employees. The annual longevity bonuses for those at State Grade 17 or lower (payments are $1,250 or $2,500 for those with five or 10 years on the job respectively) will also be paid. The entire package of increases is valued at approximately $25 million.

There’s more. Sano said that the Budget Division has returned to its earlier practice of granting the increases to those who are on the payroll on the effective dates, not when the checks are issued.

“People who retire between now and the announced paydays won’t miss out on these raises, which will have a positive effect on the vacation payouts and sick leave accrual values used for their retirement health insurance,” Sano stated.

This is the second installment of four scheduled parity payments. Another two percent (2%) payment is due in April, 2017, and one percent (1%) in April of 2018.

OMCE legislation A7448 (Farrell) and S6725 (Young) seeking to accelerate the remaining payments into this 2016-17 state fiscal year is poised for action by the legislature before they adjourn. If this legislation is passed and signed into law it will quickly complete the payment of all withheld monies this fiscal year.

“The assistance we have received from OPEIU President Richard Lanigan, Local 153 Business Manager Michael Goodwin, lobbyist Robert Bishop (Pitta Giblin & Bishop) and Mario Cilento, President, New York State AFL-CIO were invaluable and helped keep this issue alive while we crafted a resolution,” Sano said. “We are very thankful to all who have helped.”

Stewards in Buffalo Attend Training

Local 153 stewards in Buffalo recently attended a two-session, six-hour training class that was presented by attorney Joe Giroux and Mark Jurenovich of the New York State United Teachers (NYSUT). The steward training class was sponsored by the Western New York Area Labor Federation (WNYALF) and was held at NYSUT’s regional office.

The Local 153 stewards who attended represent HealthNow/Blue Cross, Cornerstone Credit Union, Riverside Credit Union, Legal Aid Bureau, and the City of North Tonawanda. They are, seated, left to right, Sabrina Haynie-Young, Marissa Mckissock, Renee Cheatham, Valerie Watson, and Gail Pohl; and, standing left to right, Sabrina Madison, Bill Davignon, Kelly Chillcott, Mecca Ryan, Dolores Lane, Pam Austin, Christina Tortorice, Charlotte Fernandez and Lynn Brooks. Brenda St. John, Donna Amos and Nick Giarratano also attended, but were not present for this photo.
Local 153 Membership Benefits

- **DEATH BENEFIT**
  $5,000 Death Benefit + Additional $2,000 OPEIU Total $7,000.
  $5,000 AD&D Benefit + Additional $2,000 OPEIU Total $7,000. (Death by accident total $14,000).

Eligibility – Membership in good standing with payment of dues for 12 months during the last 14-month period prior to death, exclusive of the month of death.

For more information, please call 212-741-8251

- **WORKERS COMPENSATION/SUPPLEMENTARY DISABILITY**
  Supplementary Disability – Flat once-a-year Benefit will be paid to a member in good standing with 12 months membership as follows:
  - 6-12 Weeks – Maximum of $300
  - 13-18 Weeks – Maximum of $600
  - 19-24 Weeks – Maximum of $900
  - 25 Weeks or more – Maximum of $1,200

For more information, please call 212-741-8251

- **TOWING BENEFIT**
  Two towing/service calls per year for members and family living in the same household, valued at up to $100 each. You will need a “producer code” for “plan letter C”.

For information, call 212-741-8270

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

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

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

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

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

Call 212-741-8250/8251

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

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

- **ENTERTAINMENT**
  Discount movie tickets (now $8.50/Regal – $9/AMC) and theme park discount tickets such as Great Adventure.

Call 212-741-8261

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

Call Victoria at 212-675-3210

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

- **AFL-CIO UNION PLUS BENEFITS**
  Discounts for services such as dental, vision, health clubs, legal services, pet and car insurance, car rentals, mortgages, etc.

Visit unionplus.org

- **WORKING ADVANTAGE**
  Discounts for theater and events, entertainment, sporting events, shopping, travel, etc.

Visit workingadvantage.com

Create an account using ID#: 924400144

- **SCHOLARSHIPS**
  Howard Coughlin, John Kelly Labor Studies, Union Privilege and Lavina Michl Wright with grants of up to $6,500.

Visit opeiu153.org

- **DEFENSE FUND**
  Where an authorized strike is called, members will receive $290 per week.

- **UNION SUPPORT SERVICES**
  For members and their families who suffer with substance abuse, depression or stress.

Call 212-741-8251

- **PUBLICATIONS**
  Steward Update, Local 153 News and OPEIU’s White Collar.

- **RETIREE ASSOCIATION**
  National Council of Senior Citizens Active on Social & Political Issues.

Call 212-741-8262

- **EDUCATION FOR UPGRADING SKILLS**

Call Victoria at 212-675-3210

- **AFL-CIO UNION PLUS BENEFITS**
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Membership Meetings Matter

The Local 153 membership meeting held in May featured an introduction to an exciting new benefit, a presentation by Beth Tiger, the Executive Director of Durga Tree International, a raffle with great prizes, and, as always, an opportunity for members to speak directly with union officers.

The new driver safety discount class is explained in this edition of Local 153 News. It’s an exciting benefit because it is easy to use and can save you hundreds of dollars each year on your auto insurance and reduce points on your license.

The presentation by Beth Tiger regarding Durga Tree International was engrossing. Not many people realize the fact that slavery still exists around the world. But indeed modern slavery exists, and Durga Tree is making strides combating this harsh, oppressive and frightening practice.

As Ms. Tiger explained, Durga Tree’s mission is to raise funds that support global initiatives to heal, protect, educate and economically empower survivors of modern slavery.

Armed with compelling true stories of modern slavery, Ms. Tiger certainly fulfilled the organization’s educational mission at the May Local 153 membership meeting. She reported that Durga Tree works with other organizations to create a support network for modern abolitionists. It’s hard to believe, but approximately 21 million people around the world — five million of them children — are victims of forced labor, according to the most recent estimate, up from 12.3 million in 2005, the ILO reports. Organizations like Durga Tree help fight this disgraceful practice. “It is a basic human right of every individual to have personal freedom,” Ms. Tiger told Local 153 members. “Only through collaboration and unity will we, together, end human slavery in the 21st century.”

Senior Business Representative Pat Hoffman spoke of her life changing journey with Durga Tree to a human trafficking shelter in the slums of Guatemala City. She urged all members to use Amazon Smile and add Durga Tree International as their charity choice. Amazon will make a donation whenever Amazon Smile is used by a member.

Members who would like to learn more about Durga Tree or assist in its noble but difficult mission to end modern slavery and human trafficking can visit its website at durgatreeinternational.org

Following Ms. Tiger’s presentation OPEIU President and Local 153 Secretary-Treasurer Richard Lanigan and Business Manager Michael Goodwin spoke, later meeting personally with members who had any questions.

All members who attended received a raffle ticket and a drawing was held at the end of the meeting. Joanna Cruceta, Legends Hospitality, won a Mini H20 wireless home speaker; Brandon Eversley, Legends Hospitality, won a Fitbit watch; Ralph Johnson, Jr., Kimptons Hotels Ink 48, won URBeats headphones; Sharon Purnochandur, ACP, won an iPod Touch; Francisco Alba, Legends Hospitality, won a HERO Go Pro Camcorder; and Corine Haly, Equity League Pension and Health Funds, won an Acer laptop computer.

Local 153 will have another special presentation, as well as another raffle with great prizes, at its next membership meeting, Tuesday September 20 at 6:00 p.m. at Gertrude Lane Auditorium, 305 West 44th Street. All Local 153 members are invited to attend this meeting!
Local 153’s annual Family Day drew a huge crowd to Coney Island, where members and their families enjoyed the sand and surf, amusement park rides, music, dancing, free food and a ballgame, too. Each year new rides are being added along the boardwalk and Coney Island remains as fun-filled as it has been since it first opened in the 1890s.
Family Day!

Many members and their families used the day as an opportunity to meet with Local 153 officers, and more than a few members attended the Brooklyn Cyclones baseball game. It was a great, fun-filled day for all as these photos show, and we are already looking forward to Local 153 Family Day 2017!
Office and Professional Employees International Union, Local 153  
Statements of Revenue and Expenses — Cash Basis  
For the six months ended June 30, 2016

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

Dear Mr. Lanigan:  
We compiled the statements of revenues and expenses — cash basis of Office and Professional Employees International Union, Local 153 — for the six months ended June 30, 2016, in accordance with standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants as follows.

**GENERAL FUND**
Cash balance and investments—January 1, 2016 $ 234,819

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue Received</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dues</strong></td>
<td>$3,181,521</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Initiation Fees</strong></td>
<td>33,742</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Health and Pension Funds—Reimbursed Administrative Expenses</strong></td>
<td>128,162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>O.P.E.I.U.—Reimbursed Administrative Expenses</strong></td>
<td>114,248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Federation of Catholic Teachers—Reimbursed Admin. Expenses</strong></td>
<td>15,825</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>O.P.E.I.U.—FCT Subsidy</strong></td>
<td>45,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sale of Discounted Movie Tickets (Membership Benefit)</strong></td>
<td>13,320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Transfers from Local 153 Defense Fund</strong></td>
<td>313,165</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue Received</strong></td>
<td>3,844,983</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses Paid</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Salaries</strong></td>
<td>731,870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Officers’ and Business Agents’ Expenses</strong></td>
<td>26,164</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Automobile Expenses</strong></td>
<td>83,944</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Per Capita Taxes:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Office and Professional Employees International Union</strong></td>
<td>948,959</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>O.P.E.I.U. Strike Benefit and Defense Fund</strong></td>
<td>213,134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Long Island Federation of Labor</strong></td>
<td>2,760</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>New York City Central Labor Council</strong></td>
<td>20,445</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Dues to Affiliated Organizations</strong></td>
<td>8,455</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Legal and Arbitration</strong></td>
<td>3,375</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Organizing Expenses</strong></td>
<td>6,820</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Negotiation Expenses</strong></td>
<td>5,150</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lost Time Wages</strong></td>
<td>17,163</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Temporary Help</strong></td>
<td>2,651</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shop Stewards’ Expenses</strong></td>
<td>17,369</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Conferences and Conventions</strong></td>
<td>42,265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Meeting Hall Rents</strong></td>
<td>2,110</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Executive Board and Trustees’ Meetings</strong></td>
<td>29,195</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Consultants</strong></td>
<td>9,150</td>
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<td><strong>Rent and Electric</strong></td>
<td>374,281</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Telephone</strong></td>
<td>9,458</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Office Machine Maintenance and Rentals</strong></td>
<td>38,867</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Office Supplies and Printing</strong></td>
<td>33,228</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>General Office</strong></td>
<td>9,866</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Postage and Mailing</strong></td>
<td>25,631</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Insurance</strong></td>
<td>26,753</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Computer Maintenance and Support</strong></td>
<td>35,131</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Flowers</strong></td>
<td>1,589</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Auditing and Accounting</strong></td>
<td>23,758</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Automatic Data Processing</strong></td>
<td>2,958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Staff 401(k) Administrative Fees</strong></td>
<td>1,117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Employee Health Benefits</strong></td>
<td>475,215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Life Insurance</strong></td>
<td>11,179</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10 | Local 153 News
Employee Pension Trust Funds                           250,822
Purchase of Discounted Movie Tickets (Membership Benefit)     18,427
Member and Retirement Awards                                    9,312
Tickets, Ads, Contributions, etc.                               35,587
Educational and Publicity                                       17,789
O.P.E.L.U. Local 153 Newsletter                                27,421
Transfers to Local 153 Defense Fund                            209,580
Transfers to Local 153 GF Reserve Fund                       122,250
Retiree Activities & Expenses                                   10,060
Interest                                                      73
Purchase of Fixed Assets                                         (3,385)
Returned Checks                                                131
Employees Withholding Taxes                                     176,394
U.S. Government and NYS Payroll Taxes                          62,526
Expenses Paid before Withholding Taxes                        4,176,997
Less: Employees Withholding Tax Deductions                    172,267
Total Expenses Paid                                            4,004,730
Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Investments                  (159,747)
Cash Balance and Investments—June 30, 2016                    $  75,072

**DISPOSITION OF FUNDS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HSBC:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Checking Account</td>
<td>$ 20,410</td>
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<tr>
<td>Settlement Account</td>
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<tr>
<td>Retirees Account</td>
<td>18,654</td>
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<tr>
<td>Banco Popular</td>
<td>10,719</td>
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<tr>
<td>Petty Cash</td>
<td>700</td>
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<tr>
<td>State of Israel Bond (at cost)</td>
<td>500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$ 75,072</td>
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**DEFENSE FUND**

Cash Balance—January 1, 2016                                   $ 1,022,461

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue Received</th>
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<tr>
<td>Transfers from Local 153 General Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest Income</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Revenue Received</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses Paid</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Membership Benefits:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disability Benefits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Insurance (Death Benefits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Member Identity Theft Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Labor Day Expenses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education and Publicity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payments to Affiliated Organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tickets, Ads, Contributions, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal and Arbitration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultant Fees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Computer Maintenance and Support</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transfers to Local 153 General Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of Fixed Assets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Expenses Paid</td>
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<tr>
<td>Increase (Decrease) in Cash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash Balance — June 30, 2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DISPOSITION OF FUNDS**

| Amalgamated Bank — Checking Account                           | $ 229,917 |
| Amalgamated Bank — Savings Account                            | 3,115     |
| Chase Bank — Savings Account                                  | 223,388   |
| Amalgamated Bank — Letter of Credit Account                   | 456,420   |
| Amalgamated Bank — Letter of Credit Account                   | 82,513    |
| Amalgamated Bank — Letter of Credit Account                   | 26,313    |
| Total                                                         | $ 565,246 |

*Continued on next page*
**GF RESERVE FUND**

Cash balance—January 1, 2016 $ 0

**Revenue Received**

- Transfers from Local 153 General Fund $122,250
- Interest Income 4
- Total Revenue Received 122,254

**Expenses Paid**

- Total Expenses Paid 0
- Increase in Cash 122,254
- Cash Balance—June 30, 2016 $ 122,254

**DISPOSITION OF FUNDS**

Amalgamated Bank of New York: Money Market Account Total $ 122,254

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**Union Wins Contract Extension at PSE&G**

Local 153 members at PSE&G have won a contract extension until April 30, 2021. The agreement with the company was reached over a year before the current contract expires, bringing members job security and peace of mind.

Members will receive wage increases of three percent (3%) on January 2, 2017, May 1, 2018, September 9, 2019 and May 1, 2020.

The extension contains healthcare improvements, with small increases in deductibles and co-pays on January 1, 2017, but no increase in premium share for the life of the agreement.

In addition, the company agreed to a 20% increase in the contribution to the pension supplemental benefit for those who are “pre-age 65 choices retirees” within the pension plan who retire on or after January 1, 2018.

The agreement also has training and job upgrading features. In the event business operations change, there is a provision for the employer and the union to meet and discuss the conversion to a workweek of four 10-hour days to replace the current workweek of five eight-hour days.

The contract extension was ratified by an overwhelming majority of the membership.

**Congratulations to members employed at PSE&G on their new contract! Seen here with Local 153 Assistant Business Manager John Edmonds are members of the bargaining committee. Clockwise from the upper left are Edmonds, Jared Port Vliet, shop steward for the Metro Division, Helen Salkowski, shop steward for Southern Division, Rusty Smith, shop steward for DP&C, Felicia Dente, recording secretary from Central Division and Eugene Taylor, chief shop steward, Palisades Division. Missing from the picture is Corey Fowler, assistant shop steward for DP&C and Michael Brady, assistant chief steward from Central Division.**
Joralemon Dentists and Hygienists Leverage a Deal

Until recently, dentists and hygienists at the Joralemon Dental Centers in Manhattan and Brooklyn—facilities that serve AFSCME DC 37 members—were working under an expired contract for over four years, Local 153 Director of Organizing Nick Galipeau reported. This situation was similar to tens of thousands of employees of the City of New York, most of whom have now reached agreement on new contracts since Bill de Blasio was elected Mayor. We are happy to report that Joralemon dentists and hygienists have now successfully achieved the New York City worker wage “pattern” in a new contract, and it includes retroactivity for years dating back to 2011, plus prospective wage increases.

Local 153 members at Joralemon also fought to gain additional benefits, since they have only been organized for the past five years. As a result, for the first time ever Joralemon dentists and hygienists can now claim paid time off benefits for part-time workers as well as significant increases to longevity and inclusion into the employer’s retiree healthcare supplement.

To their great credit, Joralemon dentists and hygienists showed tremendous tenacity in forcing the negotiations to continue for a full six months after the employer strongly suggested there would be no additional benefit to be gained by the continuation of bargaining.

Local 153 is proud to announce that the bargaining committee was able to capitalize on good timing and strategic negotiating to emerge with this comprehensive contract agreement. Congratulations to Joralemon dentists and hygenists!

Members at K of C Aramark Win New Contract

Local 153 members employed by Aramark at the Knights of Columbus have a new contract. The employees entered negotiations determined to make improvements in their contract to help secure their future and they certainly accomplished this goal.

Local 153 Business Representative Dan Ross saluted the six-member negotiating committee for their determination, adding that the bargaining unit’s chief steward, Esther Longobardi, was extremely instrumental in working with Local 153 and energizing her fellow workers to secure the significant improvements in the contract.

The workers obtained a four-year agreement, retroactive to May of this year (2016). The contract contains improvements in the grievance procedure, attains and secured breaks during the workday, a 25% reduction in employee contributions towards health premiums for their dental and vision benefits, improved eligibility time to receive paid vacation, additional paid time off for bereavement, rollover of sick days to the next calendar year, and wage hikes.

The workers received a 40 cents per hour increase retroactive to May 15 of this year, 40 cents per hour in the second year, 45 cents in the third year and 45 cents in the fourth year.

“Local 153 reached a contract agreement with the Knights of Columbus last year only after a difficult negotiation and this inspired the Aramark employees,” Ross said. “The Aramark bargaining unit’s collective determination paid off with a solid and beneficial contract!”

The members readily agree. They ratified the contract unanimously on July 14.

Local 153 Business Representative Dan Ross and Aramark employees at the Knights of Columbus, following the unanimous ratification of their new contract.
Big Victory for Verizon Strikers!

More than 40,000 striking Verizon workers in eight states won their battle in May, in a big victory for organized labor. Members of the CWA and IBEW, the workers showed great grit and determination as they fought against their company’s greed.

It was the largest strike in recent memory and it gained the workers a 10.9% raise over four years, the preservation of jobs from being outsourced to other countries, the addition of 1,300 call center jobs in the Eastern U.S., a $1,250 signing bonus, pension increases and the first union contract for the company’s wireless retail workers.

There were several keys to the settlement, including the assistance and support of other unions, including Local 153 and the mediation efforts of U.S. Secretary of Labor Thomas Perez.

“The Communications Workers of America (CWA) appreciates the persistence and dedication of Secretary Perez, Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service Director Allison Beck and their entire teams,” said CWA President Chris Shelton. “The addition of good new jobs at Verizon is a huge win, not just for striking workers, but for our communities and the country as a whole. This contract is a victory for working families across the country and an affirmation of the power of working people. It proves that when we stand together we can raise up working families, improve our communities and advance the interests of America’s working people.”

“For the first time ever, Verizon Wireless retail workers have a union and a fair contract,” said a jubilant Mike Tisei, a Verizon Wireless retail worker. “For the wireless retail workers who joined the CWA in 2014, this means a better quality of life and meaningful economic security for our families. This strike victory is only possible because we stood together.”

Striking workers returned to the job on Wednesday, June 1. All call centers that had been threatened with closure in the Mid-Atlantic region are remaining open, and the new contract guarantees that an increased percentage of customer service work will be handled byunionized workers. Several major contracting initiatives will be reversed, sustaining work for union members in their communities. As an example, there will be a 25% increase in the number of unionized crews doing pole work in New York State.

Existing job security language in the contract was preserved and all of the company’s proposals on forced interstate transfers of technicians were withdrawn. Proposed cuts in accident and disability benefits were withdrawn.

“Congratulations to the union workers at Verizon,” OPEIU President and Local 153 Secretary-Treasurer Richard Lanigan said. “Their victory against subcontracting and outsourcing is being clearly recognized as a win for all union workers in the U.S. and we salute them for this.”

Local 153 Senior Business Representative Myra Hepburn picketing with these striking Verizon employees at one of the company’s stores in Brooklyn.

Local 153 members from Emblem Health and ACP supporting the Verizon strikers in Syracuse, New York.
New York State Enacts Paid Family Leave!

Not many people realize it, but when New York passed its state budget earlier this year, it included a provision for paid family leave! This program, which will be available to all Local 153 members employed in New York State, came about as a result of strong lobbying efforts by unions including our own. It will be funded entirely through a minuscule payroll deduction on employees, and it will cost businesses—both big and small—nothing. But it will make a huge beneficial difference throughout the state for working families.

“Bonding with a new child or caring for a seriously ill family member should not cost employees their entire savings or their job,” said Governor Andrew Cuomo, who worked closely with unions in advocating for paid family leave. “New York State’s paid family leave program is a benefit for both workers and employers.”

The paid family leave program (PFL) will be phased in, eventually allowing workers to take up to 12 weeks paid time off from the job to care for newborn or newly adopted children. It will also allow employees to take up to 12 weeks of paid time off from work to care for seriously ill children, spouses, domestic partners, parents, grandchildren, grandparents, and siblings or parents of spouses or domestic partners. PFL will also help military families in their time of need. Workers will be able to use the program to address certain legal, financial and childcare issues related to military service of a spouse, domestic partner, child or parent. Employees taking family leave must be restored to the same or comparable position previously held by the employee prior to taking the leave. Employees will be eligible for the program after having worked six months for an employer.

Paid family leave in New York State will be instituted in steps, beginning in 2018 at 50% of an employee’s average weekly pay and capped at 50% of the statewide average weekly wage. It will be fully implemented in 2021 at 67% of an employee’s average weekly wage, capped to 67% of the statewide average weekly wage. Benefits will be tax free. On January 1, 2018 eligible employees will be able to take up to eight weeks of paid family leave. On January 1, 2019 they will be able to take up to 10 weeks; on January 1, 2021, up to 12 weeks of paid family leave.

Are you registered to vote? Don’t miss the deadline!
REGISTER TODAY at opeiu.org

Unions including Local 153 were at the forefront of the campaign for paid family leave (PFL) in New York. Here, Hotel Trades Council President Peter Ward and NYC Central Labor Council President Vincent Alvarez thank Governor Cuomo after he signed the state budget containing the PFL provision. Local 153 has 2,700 members in the Hotel Trades Council.
Contract Extension Reached with Blue Cross Blue Shield

However, at the suggestion of OPEIU President and Local 153 Secretary-Treasurer Richard Lanigan, the union and the employer met early to discuss the possibility of a contract extension to avoid the usual pressures of negotiation deadlines.

Bargaining sessions were held in Buffalo, New York, led by McLennan and a committee consisting of chairperson and Local 153 Executive Board member Brenda St. John and members Roberta Novack, Lynn Brooks, Donna Amos and Christina Tortorice. Local 153 Business Manager Michael Goodwin also attended the negotiations.

On Wednesday, July 27, an agreement was reached providing 5.75% in additional wage increases for a two-year extension of the contract to April 25, 2019. The members received a 2% wage increase on April 25, 2016, bringing the total wage increase in the three-year period of April, 2016 to 2019 to 7.75%. It is the largest amount of wage increases in any recent three-year contract period with the company. The contract also provides biennial step increases to all employees earning less than the top rate of pay for their respective job title and labor grades.

The additional wage increases negotiated are as follows:

- Effective September 1, 2016: 1.00%
- Effective July 1, 2017: 2.25%
- Effective July 1, 2018: 2.50%

In addition, the union won an agreement from the company to maintain and extend, without modification, the health care provisions of Article XIV for the full contract term, a major achievement.

Data provided by the company indicated that 42% of the bargaining unit has less than five years of service and 35% of the unit has more than 20 years of service. The bargaining unit has grown more than 36% since 2011, increasing by 107 jobs, from 333 to 440. This growth is attributed in part to the improved relationship between the company and the union, which has fostered the company's willingness to bring back work to Buffalo that was previously subcontracted out. It was noted during the negotiations that union-represented employees earn substantially more than their counterparts in the surrounding market, such as claims processors, who earn $21.22 per hour vs. $15.86; service representatives, who earn $19.49 vs. $15.30 and account specialists, who earn $23.47 vs. $14.73. These facts clearly indicate that “union membership pays big dividends and it pays to belong.”

The contract was enthusiastically ratified by the bargaining unit on August 6, 2016.

OPEIU President Lanigan congratulated the bargaining committee on their success in achieving the excellent extension agreement.

Local 153 will be using this achievement to organize employees at other insurance companies in the Buffalo area.