Local 153 Secretary-Treasurer Richard Lanigan Named OPEIU International President

The OPEIU Executive Board has named Local 153 Secretary-Treasurer Richard Lanigan to serve as International president, effective December 15, 2015, following the resignation of Michael Goodwin. The appointment was made at the Executive Board’s meeting in New York City. Lanigan has served as secretary-treasurer of Local 153 and as an International vice president for Region II since 1994.

After serving for 21 years, Goodwin has resigned as International president, but will continue to serve as business manager of Local 153. Lanigan will also continue to serve as Local 153 secretary-treasurer.

“[I] would like to thank the Executive Board for its decision to appoint me as president,” said Lanigan when accepting the appointment. “[I’ve] dedicated my life to OPEIU and its members, and I’m excited to embark on this next phase of service to the working people of this union.

After working his way through college as a union member, Lanigan joined Local 153 as an organizer in 1980. Soon he was promoted to business representative, where he gained experience negotiating contracts. In 1987, he enrolled in law school as an evening student and upon admission to the bar served for a time as an assistant to the OPEIU general counsel.

As secretary-treasurer of Local 153, Lanigan manages the day-to-day affairs of OPEIU’s largest Local Union. As International vice president, he works with Local Unions facilitating mergers, conducting hearings, filing Unfair Labor Practice charges, and assisting with affiliations, strikes, contract campaigns and grievances. He has chaired the Constitution and Laws committee at seven OPEIU conventions, and taught at OPEIU educational conferences and conventions. He has negotiated on behalf of several OPEIU Local Unions under a master agreement in the maritime industry for 20 years. Representing OPEIU Local Unions in jurisdictional disputes under Articles XX and XXI of the AFL-CIO Internal Disputes Procedure, he won many decisions including the Hawai‘i Nurses Association case in 2010, which determined that 4,000 nurses could be members of OPEIU.

He serves as a trustee on several benefit funds including the OPEIU and Local 153, Emblem Health and Perishable Food Industry Pension Funds and was certified in 2013 by the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans under its Trustee Masters Program.

Lanigan received OPEIU’s highest honor for organizing, the Henderson B. Douglas Award, in both 1998 and in 2005. In 2007, he received the OPEIU Silver Organizing Award. He has been honored by the NAACP and the Boy Scouts and has received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. The 2013 OPEIU Convention recognized his work representing Local Unions regarding Unfair Labor Practices and Article XX. In 2014, the Federation of Catholic Teachers presented him their “Diamond” award. During 2013-14, he represented OPEIU in the inaugural AFL-CIO National Labor Leadership Initiative program.
By Michael Goodwin, Business Manager

The Board Could Not Have Made a Better Choice

International President Michael Goodwin informed the OPEIU Executive Board at its December 2015 meeting that he was resigning from his position and dedicating all of his time to his post as business manager of Local 153. The board accepted his resignation with regrets and thanked him for his many years of service.

In his place, the board elected OPEIU Vice President and Local 153 Secretary-Treasurer Richard Lanigan as international president of the Office and Professional Employees International Union. He is the fifth person to occupy this position since 1945. The board could not have made a better choice!

I was very happy when I first joined Local 153 on November 28, 1960, as a mailroom employee of the Seafarers Vacation Plan, a benefit fund for members of the Seafarers International Union. As an employee of the Seafarers, I was represented by OEIU, Local 153 (the P in OPEIU was added later). My membership in the union led me to be elected as a shop steward who worked closely with officers of Local 153. In 1967, I was hired as a union organizer and from there went on to serve in various union positions until my election as international president in 1994. In all, I have been a proud member of Local 153 for 55 years. But, now it’s time to turn the reigns of the international union over to someone else so I can concentrate on continuing to service and grow Local 153.

I first met Richard Lanigan in 1980, who was referred to Local 153 by Father Philip A. Carey, director of the Xavier Institute of Industrial Relations on West 16th Street from 1940 until 1988. I remember my predecessor John Kelly telling me “I hired that red-headed kid” to work on the staff, and work he did! Lanigan is the type of person who dedicates 24/7 to the work of the union. Kelly was so impressed with him that he transferred him to the International Union as an assistant to OPEIU general counsel and the president. During his tenure in the International Union’s office, he worked all day and studied at night to earn a law degree. His knowledge of the law became extremely helpful in his day-to-day work with the union.

President Kelly passed away suddenly in March 1994, unfortunately, and I was elected by the board to serve the balance of his unexpired term. My election as international president created a vacancy in the leadership of Local 153 and it was recommended that Richard Lanigan return to the local as secretary-treasurer. That recommendation was enthusiastically approved by the Local 153 Executive Board. At the same time, he was also elected as international vice president for Region II, a position he held until his ascension to the International Union presidency in December 2015. During his tenure as a Local 153 leader, he participated in numerous bargaining situations requiring skill and experience. In every case, Lanigan has excelled in representing the members of Local 153.

As vice president of the International Union, he became nationally recognized as an expert in presenting Article XX and Article XXI cases before AFL-CIO umpires. In fact, he has accumulated an unprecedented record in favorably resolving 19 out of 21 cases presented. Lanigan is a member of the New York State AFL-CIO Executive Board and has served as a trustee of various defined benefit pension funds and health and welfare funds. He also has become one of the most sought after trainers to teach shop stewards and members how to be more effective representatives.

Lanigan will be serving the balance of my term until the election at the OPEIU Convention in June 2016 for a full three-year term. I have no doubt that he will be unanimously elected by the delegates representing 105,000 members in more than 100 OPEIU Local Unions.
Dues Increase 69 Cents a Week Effective January 1, 2016
Membership Benefit Increases Announced

Effective January 1, 2016, the dues for all Local 153 members (except hotel division members who pay a higher amount) will increase by 69 cents a week ($3 per month), as approved by delegates to the OPEIU Convention held in June 2013 in San Diego, California. The last Local 153 dues increase was 4 years ago on January 1, 2012.

Along with the dues increase, five major membership benefit increases will take effect, Secretary-Treasurer Richard Lanigan announced.

The membership benefit levels as of January 1, 2016, are:

• A $5,000 death benefit (plus $2,000 from OPEIU), totaling $7,000.
• A $5,000 accidental death and dismemberment benefit (plus $2,000 from OPEIU), totaling $7,000.
• Additional supplemental disability/workers’ compensation benefits to provide up to a total of $1,200 for periods of disability of 25 weeks or more; up to a total of $900 for 19 weeks or more; or up to a total of $600 for 13 weeks or more and $300 for 6 weeks or more.
• WellCard health program that allows you and your family to have access to health care providers, Rx drugs, vision, dental, lab and imaging services at discounted rates with prices similar to insurance company discounts.
• Strike and/or lockout benefits of $290 per week/$58 a day payable from the first day of a strike and/or lockout (effective November 1, 2015).

In addition, members will continue to receive a towing/service call benefit of up to 2 tows/service calls per year valued at up to $100 each, Identity Theft program (similar to LifeLock) providing monitoring and protection against fraud for members and families living in the same household, Metrodent Dental Access Program, OPEIU scholarships, Lavina Michl Wright scholarships, Local 153 educational programs and the AFL-CIO Union Plus benefits, including a Union Plus credit card and the mortgage and real estate program.

All of the above membership benefits are provided by Local 153 at no additional cost to members. Purchased individually, these benefits would cost members hundreds of dollars.

In this edition of Local 153 News, certificates of eligibility for death, AD&D, supplementary disability/workers’ compensation, WellCard Health and Identity Theft programs are printed for your convenience.

Please make sure that you retain these certificates in your personal effects so that your family will know that you are covered by these membership benefits.

Death Benefit and AD&D
A $5,000 death benefit (plus $2,000 from OPEIU) and a $5,000 accidental death and dismemberment benefit (plus $2,000 from OPEIU) will be provided to members in good standing for 12 months or more.

In cases of natural death, a member’s family will receive a total of $7,000 and in cases of accidental death, the family will receive a total of $14,000.

Supplementary Disability/Workers’ Compensation
A flat, once a year benefit to members in good standing for 12 months or more as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Length of SD/WC</th>
<th>Maximum Annual Benefit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 weeks–12 weeks</td>
<td>$300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 weeks–18 weeks</td>
<td>$600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 weeks–24 weeks</td>
<td>$900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 weeks or more</td>
<td>$1,200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WellCard
Allows you and your family to have access to more than 410,000 physicians nationwide and more than 50,000 ancillaries (lab, x-ray, imaging, durable medical equipment) belonging to the network.

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Michael Goodwin, Business Manager
Richard Lanigan, Secretary-Treasurer

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International Union, Local 153
265 West 14th Street, New York, NY 10011
Local 153 Death Benefit

This is to certify that: Effective January 1, 2016, all members paying the regular dues rate who are in good standing with twelve (12) or more consecutive months of membership shall be covered for a Five Thousand ($5,000) Dollar Death Benefit payable from the Local 153 Defense Fund. A member’s good standing and eligibility for this Five Thousand ($5,000) Dollars is forfeited if the member is more than two (2) months in arrears in dues during the fourteen (14) month period prior to death, exclusive of the month of death.

(This benefit is in addition to the Two Thousand ($2,000) Dollar Death Benefit payable by the International Union.)

A member who is not on the active payroll due to leave, disability or other similar circumstances remains eligible only if the member keeps his/her dues payment current. Therefore, a member must continue to pay his/her dues directly to the union during these periods if he/she wishes to remain eligible for this benefit.

Once retired or no longer employed under a Local 153 Collective Bargaining Agreement, a member is no longer eligible for this benefit.

All Death Benefit Claims will be paid in accordance with rules promulgated by the Executive Board.

Michael Goodwin
Business Manager

Richard Lanigan
Secretary-Treasurer
Local 153 Accidental Death and Dismemberment Benefit

This is to certify that: Effective January 1, 2016, all members paying the regular dues rate who are in good standing with twelve (12) or more consecutive months of membership shall be covered for a Five Thousand ($5,000) Dollar Accidental Death and Dismemberment Benefit payable from the Local 153 Defense Fund. A member’s good standing and eligibility for this Five Thousand ($5,000) Dollars is forfeited if the member is more than two (2) months in arrears in dues during the fourteen (14) month period prior to death, exclusive of the month of death.

A member who is not on the active payroll due to leave, disability or other similar circumstances remains eligible only if the member keeps his/her dues payment current. Therefore, a member must continue to pay his/her dues directly to the union during these periods if he/she wishes to remain eligible for this benefit.

Once retired or no longer employed under a Local 153 Collective Bargaining Agreement, a member is no longer eligible for this benefit.

All Death Benefit Claims will be paid in accordance with rules promulgated by the Executive Board.

Michael Goodwin
Business Manager

Richard Lanigan
Secretary-Treasurer
Local 153 Supplementary Disability and Workers’ Compensation Benefit

This is to certify that: Effective January 1, 2016, all members paying the regular dues rate who are in good standing with twelve (12) or more consecutive months of membership shall be eligible for Supplementary Disability and Workers’ Compensation (SD/WC) benefits in amounts determined by the length of the SD/WC payable from the Local 153 Defense Fund as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Length of SD/WC</th>
<th>Maximum Annual Benefit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 weeks – 12 weeks</td>
<td>Three Hundred ($300) Dollars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 weeks – 18 weeks</td>
<td>Six Hundred ($600) Dollars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 weeks – 24 weeks</td>
<td>Nine Hundred ($900) Dollars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 weeks or more</td>
<td>Twelve Hundred ($1,200) Dollars</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Benefits are paid by Local 153 whether or not the member receives SD/WC benefits from another source.

No payments for SD/WC claims shall exceed Twelve Hundred ($1,200) Dollars in any one year. A SD/WC claim is limited to one consecutive disability per year. A SD/WC claim extending from one year to another shall be considered as one claim. To be eligible a member must be in good standing and current with payment of dues during the period of Disability and Workers’ Compensation. Therefore, a member must continue to pay his/her dues directly to the union during these periods to remain eligible for this benefit.

The SD/WC benefit must be claimed by the end of the year following the year in which the Disability and Workers’ Compensation commenced.

All claims for the Supplementary Disability and Workers’ Compensation Benefit will be paid in accordance with rules promulgated by the Executive Board.

Michael Goodwin
Business Manager

Richard Lanigan
Secretary-Treasurer
Get Started Today!

An Empowering Health & Wellness Program

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2. Keep the card in your wallet and present it at your local provider’s office and pharmacy to save.

The WellCard Health discount card is an easy way to help you and your family with all your prescription drug and health care service needs.

Gain access to value-added programs that can save you money in more than one way:

- **Doctor Visits** – save up to 25%
- **Dental** – save up to 50%
- **Vision** – save up to 50%
- **MRI & Imaging** – save up to 70%
- **Lab** – save up to 60%
- **24/7 Doctor** – save up to 65%
- **Prescription Drugs** – save up to 65%
- **Hearing** – save up to 15%
- **Diabetic Care Services** – save up to 10%
- **Vitamins** – save up to 10%
- **Medical Bill Help** – save up to 30%
- **Daily Living Products** – save up to 10%
- **WellCard Rewards** – get cash back

This is Not Insurance. It is a program that provides access to discounts on health care and other services. Cardholders are responsible for paying the discounted cost at the time of service. WellCard Health has no membership fee. The discount plan organization is AccessOne Consumer Health, Inc., 84 Villa Rd., Greenville, SC 29615, www.accessonedmpo.com.

This is Not Insurance. It is a discount medical program. Payment must be made at time of service. This program is powered by AccessOne Consumer Health, Inc. www.accessonedmpo.com.
Local 153 Identity Theft Program

This is to certify that:* Effective January 1, 2012, all members paying the regular dues rate who are in good standing shall be covered by an Identity Theft program through InfoArmor’s PrivacyArmor against the fastest growing crime in the United States – a crime that takes a victim, on average, 165 hours to regain pre-theft status. A member’s good standing and eligibility for this Identity Theft program is forfeited if the member is more than two (2) months in arrears in dues.

A member who is not on the active payroll due to leave, disability or other similar circumstances remains eligible only if the member keeps his/her dues payment current. Therefore, a member must continue to pay his/her dues directly to the union during these periods if he/she wishes to remain eligible for this benefit.

Once retired or no longer employed under a Local 153 Collective Bargaining Agreement, a member is no longer eligible for this benefit.

All Identity Theft program rules are promulgated by the Executive Board.

Michael Goodwin
Business Manager

Richard Lanigan
Secretary-Treasurer

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afl-cio
Members Overwhelmingly Approve New Contract with ULLICO

On October 20, 2015, Local 153 members employed by the Union Labor Life Insurance Company (ULLICO) overwhelmingly approved a three-year agreement with the company, which provides for a 2.5 percent cost of living increase each year of the agreement, and a 2.5 percent wage increase in both minimum and maximum pay rates.

Union members also successfully fought to preserve low-premium-share healthcare rates and will receive increased annual pension contributions to the Local 153 Pension Fund. Additionally, Local 153 forced ULLICO to withdraw proposals to eliminate wage progression and 401(k) matching contributions.

“We are extremely satisfied with our collective bargaining agreement and thank Local 153 for providing strong support during contract negotiations,” said Chief Steward John Jones.

The negotiating committee included Jones, Erika Briscoe, Taurin Carraway, and Dianne Winder. Local 153 Business Representative Seth Goldstein credited the negotiating committee and the members for successfully standing together to demand a fair and equitable agreement.

Local 153 Members Benefit from Child Care Subsidy

Local 153 has collaborated with the New York Union Child Care Coalition (NYUCCC) to support union members dealing with the staggering cost of child care and the struggles of being a working parent in New York City. The NYUCCC connects workers to a state-funded grant program that seeks to subsidize the cost of many child care and after-school programs in the city. Although efforts are underway to expand the program to other jurisdictions, the subsidy is typically available to families living and working in specific NYC ZIP codes.

Since Local 153 strongly supports working families and access to affordable child care, it has signed on to a union partnership that is currently advocating for paid family leave in New York State. Although there is a waiting line for current applicants, the benefits offered by this program have been expedited exclusively for the use of Local 153 members. This means that Local 153 members will go to the front of the line because of their union membership.

In addition, Local 153 is particularly proud to announce that the subsidies are already changing members’ lives. Recently, Yomayra Caraballo, a Local 153 member employed by General Vision Services, was approved for more than $16,000 in subsidies after completing an application at the group’s September membership meeting! Another member received $9,000 in subsidies.

OPEIU members wishing to learn more about the child care subsidy are encouraged to contact their business representative to schedule a membership meeting with an organizer from the coalition. NYUCCC organizers have generously agreed to travel to Local 153 shops to describe benefits, eligibility and provide pre-screening for members interested in applying.
OPEIU Attends First Young Workers Conference Held in NYC

Local 153 members participated in the first Young Workers conference held in New York City on October 23, 2015. In tandem with the New York City Central Labor Council, OPEIU members were part of the planning and organizing of the event, which was held at the headquarters of International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE), Local 52 in Astoria, Queens. Specially planned for a Friday night, the event and seminar were attended by more than 170 workers and allies from various New York City labor unions and social justice groups.

One of the primary purposes for the gathering was to connect young workers to the greater labor movement in NYC, and forge contacts and networks among area activists. Evening workshops focused on issues like organizing young workers and building organizational power, and several attendees were later asked to provide worker testimonials on their individual experiences in today’s labor movement. By 9 p.m. the conference portion of the event was adjourned, and most of the participants remained to enjoy the night’s social functions featuring live music and refreshments.

Due to the overwhelming success of the October conference, organizers already are preparing for the next young worker event in NYC. Local 153 strongly encourages its members to participate in order to better connect our union to the greater labor movement. Under 40-years-old is the common standard for qualification, but any Local 153 members who wish to participate in the future may contact Business Representative Nick Galipeau at the offices of Local 153. Special thanks to Local 153 members at the New York City Central Labor Council that assisted with logistics for this extraordinary and very well organized event.
Annual Retirees Luncheon Held

A Nice Holiday Gift: All Pensioners to Receive Additional Check

The annual Local 153 luncheon for retirees that was held this month was not only the scene of much good cheer, there was even great holiday joy for the retired members of Local 153 who weren’t able to attend the event! That’s because it was announced at the luncheon that the Pension Fund’s Board of Trustees had approved an additional retirement check — which is the equivalent of one month’s pension payment — for all eligible retirees.

As always, the annual holiday luncheon gave Local 153 retirees the chance to greet old friends and former coworkers. Local 153 Business Manager Michael Goodwin, Secretary-Treasurer Richard Lanigan and Local 153 Retirees Association President Charles Ponti Sr. were among those on hand to greet the retired members of the union who attended. All who were present agreed that it was great fun, as the photos on this page clearly show.
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一次性 benefit will be paid to members in good standing for 12 months or more in the following amounts: 6 weeks=12 weeks…$300; 13 weeks=18 weeks…$600; 19 weeks=24 weeks…$900; 25 or more weeks…$1,200. 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. For more information, call (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 Health 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.

- **Retirement Status**—Retired members may continue membership in Local 153. 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 212-741-8250.