



# WHITE COLLAR

OFFICE AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION, AFL-CIO, CLC

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## SPECIAL EDITION

# OPEIU Fights Back Against Assault on Workers' Rights!

## OPEIU Bus Travels Across the Country, Uniting Members in the Fight!

OPEIU has joined hundreds of thousands of workers throughout the country in protest of the assault on workers' rights, rallying to ensure our voices are heard in the political process and fighting for dignity and respect for America's working families.

Rallies and protests were held throughout the months of February, March and April to protest the outrageous attacks on the rights of workers, in what International President Michael Goodwin has called "the turning point for the middle class and for workers."

"This is not just about labor rights, this is about civil rights," President Goodwin told listeners of *The Stephanie Miller Show* after one of the first large rallies held in Madison, Wisconsin on February 25. "The enthusiasm, the commitment and the energy of the people is so heartwarming.

"It's not just union brothers and sisters, it's everybody," President Goodwin continued. "The public is supporting the right of unions to maintain their collective bargaining by more than a 2-1 margin. Obviously, we don't have a 2-1 ratio of unionized brothers and sisters in Wisconsin, so it's the public that is seeing that what Governor Scott Walker is doing is not right and they are siding with the employees. Sixty-eight percent are siding with labor!"

"Walker and his kind are trying to take away workers' collective bargaining rights by saying it's necessary to balance their budgets, but the idea of calling this a budgetary issue is ridiculous," President Goodwin continued. "This is nothing more than a group of Republican extremists in various states getting together and saying let's eliminate the unions. We know exactly what they are trying to do – destroy the unions and destroy collective bargaining!"

At the rally on February 25 in Madison, more than 100 OPEIU members joined the worker protests as President Goodwin told the gathered masses to raise their voices against the destruction of collective bargaining for public workers.

President Goodwin said the rally was remarkable, noting that he was inspired "by seeing the camaraderie of the labor movement. It's just a wonderful feeling. I've been going to rallies for 50 years and I don't recall being at an event so powerful and so inspiring as what's going on here."

In an interview with *Workers Independent News* radio, President Goodwin said that working families must win this fight to stop corporations and their political allies from taking away the rights of workers.

"We cannot let that happen, we must make it stop," said President Goodwin. "They can't shut us up, we've got to speak out like this in  
*(Continued on page 11)*



One of two OPEIU buses takes members to rallies to ensure that OPEIU's voice is heard in state capitals throughout the United States!

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## Editorial



# The Governor You Want – The Governor You Don't Want

By Michael Goodwin, International President

The labor movement is facing the greatest crisis in its history. There are governors in numerous states who are working together to destroy the labor movement with attacks on public employees and their right to bargain collectively.

The latest attacks are far worse than the attack by the federal government in 1981 on the air traffic controllers, who were fired by President Reagan for refusing to return to work following a strike. History has recorded that the strike by members of the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization (PATCO) was a turning point for the labor movement, leading to a steady decline in union membership density and lower wages and benefits for all workers.

Unlike the governors who want to destroy workers' rights, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo invited New York labor leaders to the executive mansion on Monday, March 28, 2011 in Albany, New York to discuss concerns of union members and the budget. Region II Vice President Richard Lanigan and I attended the meeting and were extremely pleased with the discussion. New York State is facing similar budgetary challenges as other states, yet the approach taken by the new governor was totally different. Instead of blaming all of the ills on public employees and collective bargaining, this governor adopted the approach of how we could work together to solve difficult problems. He made it clear that, "I want to work with you—I'm on your side." He strongly disagrees with the union-busting activities of the other governors.

Despite the fact that he had to cut the budget from the usual 13 percent-16 percent increase every year to a 2 percent reduction from last year's budget, he was able to do it by talking to union representatives and working out mutu-

al solutions. One of the things that impressed us most was his statement that cuts in education must not be achieved by laying off teachers – but rather eliminating the "bloat" that he said existed in the administrative staff in the school districts. He further stated he would use the leverage that the state has in granting awards by threatening to withhold those monies from any school district that lays off teachers.

When a representative of law enforcement employees complained that their union



Governor Andrew Cuomo

had an open contract for an extended period of time, and yet again, meetings scheduled for the following day were canceled, Governor Cuomo responded by saying, "if the agency heads are not available for tomorrow's meeting, I will meet with the union representatives myself." The agency heads he was referring to were present in the room and I'm sure were deservedly embarrassed. How refreshing is this report on the meeting with Governor Cuomo?

By contrast, it's upsetting to think about what the public employees are facing in Wisconsin—decertification of their unions, elimination of payroll deduction of dues, discipline and discharge based on so-called "merit evaluations" by supervisors, along

with unnecessary demands for employee contributions to health and pension plans. All of this was demanded by the state, despite the fact that the Wisconsin pension plan is 100 percent funded and does not need employee contributions. The alleged need for these contributions was supposedly related to the budget—and when the workers agreed to meet the demands of the governor, he still went ahead with his union-busting legislation. The courts have ruled that the legislation is unconstitutional and that ruling is expected to be appealed to the state Supreme Court. In the meantime, petitions have been circulating to recall eight Republican legislators with the goal of elections in June. Unfortunately, the governor cannot be recalled before serving at least one year, which will be after January 1, 2012.

There are similar attacks underway in other states. This cancer has spread to Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Florida, Maine and New Hampshire. In all, the labor movement is battling more than 500 pieces of anti-union legislation!

I have said in the past, "be careful what you wish for." Unfortunately, not enough workers got the message and voted against their best interests or stayed home in the 2010 elections, permitting these right-wing extremist governors to get elected. We are all now paying the price!

We need more of the Governor Andrew Cuomo type of leadership and less of the Governor Scott Walker slash and burn style.

It has been said that if the labor movement was outlawed tomorrow and reduced to ashes, from those ashes a new labor movement would be built! Governor Scott Walker can be assured that the labor movement in Wisconsin will not be destroyed and he will be nothing more than a footnote in history.

## OPEIU Voices From The Rallies

“It was very awe-inspiring to see working people standing up against this scary and horrible threat. Working people everywhere stand to lose so much, but it was totally inspiring to see 100,000 people in solidarity, standing up for one another’s rights. I came away proud of being a union member...I will never forget the awesome feeling of walking into the Madison Capitol building—wall-to-wall people—and hearing the cheers and chants of the crowd. We stayed in Madison for two days, and in that time we had the best possible education. We saw and participated in the power of people united. All kinds of people—people in wheelchairs, people pushing strollers, old, young, and everything in between...What I saw and experienced in Wisconsin was inspirational—let’s keep that spirit growing!”

**Maria Catalfo**

*Board Member-at-Large*

Local 494  
Detroit, Michigan

“As President of Local 494, I am very proud of how our members are standing up for workers’ rights. Our members participated in rallies across the country, and as the need arose, they showed their support. Our members understand not only how important it is to give of themselves to fight against the union-busting going on throughout the country, but also the negative effect it will have on all working people whether they are union or not. Local 494 is willing to go wherever the need arises to take this challenge on. May this be a wake-up call around the country!”

**Kris Bucci**

*President*

Local 494  
Detroit, Michigan

“As we boarded the bus, I have to say I had no idea how this protest was going to turn out. When we got there, words

cannot explain how proud I was to be there in the support of our brothers and sisters.”

**Tonya Perry**

*Trustee*

Local 494  
Detroit, Michigan

“The Wisconsin protest was an eye opener. Experiencing the camaraderie of all the different unions under one dome for the same cause! It was an empowering and invigorating event. Five years ago when I started (at the UAW), I was full of union pride, but day-to-day, year-to-year, it dwindled a bit. But this rally, this cause, those members have reinvigorated me.”

**Joe Mason**

*Board Member-at-Large*

Local 494  
Detroit, Michigan



Pictured with President Michael Goodwin, Local 494 members from left to right are Christine Cassisi, Tonya Perry and Marie Lentz. Local 494 represents the clerical and maintenance workers at all the United Auto Workers (UAW) offices nationwide and in Puerto Rico.



Members of Local 494, Detroit, Michigan, gather for a rally on March 16 at the steps of the Michigan Capitol building.

**For more information about the OPEIU,  
visit our website at [www.opeiu.org](http://www.opeiu.org).**

# OPEIU Voices F

“A group of Local 459 members rode the bus in Wisconsin to join the protests there [prior to the bill’s passage that destroyed collective bargaining rights in Wisconsin.] They knew their trip to Madison in support of public sector workers was historic, but could not really appreciate how big and important it was until they got there...Walking into the Wisconsin Capitol was like entering a new world. Every inch was covered with banners and flyers. Chants, whistles, horns and especially drums filled the air. The sound could be deafening. The crowd was led by a group of students in the middle. Chants of “kill the bill” roared through the building. The spirit of the protest was heard when everyone yelled over and over again, ‘this is what democracy looks like.’ You can only imagine how impossible it would be for the governor or

the Republicans to concentrate in this environment.

“The inside of the capitol was just the first ring of the protest. Outside of the building, thousands walked to show their outrage. The number of people varied by time of day and the day of the week, but the weekends brought more than 70,000 people some days. It was a diverse crowd of unionists, progressives, elderly people, kids, students, teachers and everyone in between. It felt like the whole state was there to say they did not support this bill.”

**Joseph Marutiak**

*International Vice President,  
Region VII  
Senior Service Representative,  
Local 459  
Lansing, Michigan*

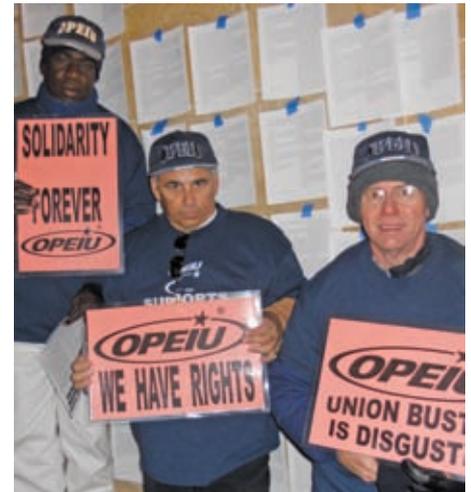
“Entering the Capitol, I felt the labor movement in the United States is still vibrant. It was a great experience for Local 100 members to stand in solidarity with our sisters and brothers in the labor movement. It was a moving experience to see all the different unions working together to make a difference.”

**Greg Blackman**

*International Vice President,  
Region III  
President,  
Local 100  
Miramar, Florida*



Local 459 members pictured from left to right are Service Representative Charles Terry, Chief Steward Brenda Densmore, Service Representative Jeff Fleming, Steward Deb Sides, Region VII International Vice President and Local 459 Senior Service Representative Joseph Marutiak, member Chanita Robinson and Chief Steward Pat Smith. Not pictured is Service Representative Lance Rhines.



Region III International Vice President and Local 100 President Greg Blackman (far right), pictured with Treasurer Walter Clarit and First Vice President Otto Castillo inside the Wisconsin State Capitol building on February 25.

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**MICHAEL GOODWIN**  
President

**MARY MAHONEY**  
Secretary-Treasurer



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“Given the recent attack on the labor movement and working families nationally, and particularly in New Jersey, I am proud of the turnout of Local 32 members to show their solidarity in keeping the labor movement strong.”

**Allen Byron**

*International Vice  
President, Region II  
ST/BM,  
Local 32  
Union, New Jersey*



Region II International Vice President and Local 32 Secretary-Treasurer/Business Manager Allen Byron with New Jersey State AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Laurel Brennan and New Jersey State AFL-CIO President Charles Wowkanec in Trenton, New Jersey at a “Day of Solidarity” roundtable on April 4.

## From The Rallies

“When I arrived in Madison, Wisconsin, I felt a strong connection with the public sector workers who were fighting to keep their rights. I understood that the union ultimately winning or losing this issue would have ramifications on the collective bargaining that Local 153 is engaged in. I felt a sense of renewal, of purpose and was very happy to be there representing my Local and International.”

**Richard Lanigan**  
*International Vice  
 President, Region II  
 Secretary-Treasurer,  
 Local 153  
 New York, New York*



Region II International Vice President and Local 153 Secretary-Treasurer Richard Lanigan (second from right) with members of Local 3 (San Francisco, California) at the Madison rally on February 25.

## The Jobs Crisis Continues and Few in Washington Seem to Notice or Care

**Submitted by Glen Rosselli, OPEIU Policy and Government Affairs Consultant**

Nearly four months into the 112th Congress and virtually no one is talking about jobs. Mass firings have abated, there have been 13 consecutive months of private sector job growth, and the unemployment rate has dropped over the last year from 9.9 percent to 8.8 percent. But the employment picture is far from recovered.

We are slowly coming out of the worst recession in generations, and today there are still nearly five unemployed workers for every job opening and more than six million workers who have been unemployed for six months or longer. Almost 25 million workers are either unemployed or underemployed, and the rate of job growth over the last year—averaging roughly 135,000 jobs per month—won’t get us back all the jobs lost in the recession until 2018.

Yet Washington seems to have lost interest in jobs and the jobless. No jobs bills have been introduced in Congress this year. Instead, unable to agree on a budget and believing that excessive government spending is holding the economy back, Republicans led efforts to drastically cut programs. They used “must pass” budget legislation to get tens of billions of dollars cut from programs.

Government services that working families rely on, from housing assistance to Pell Grants for college, were slashed. Food and job safety inspections, needed infrastructure projects and some health care programs were also cut or delayed. All totaled, the cuts would add up to the largest budget reduction for federal agencies in U.S. history.

Amid a fragile economic recovery with high unemployment, these budget cuts will

slow growth and risk increasing unemployment, completely wiping out the positive economic effects of last December’s extension of the 2009 tax cuts for working Americans.

Unfortunately, this approach—loading up must pass legislation—is likely to continue as May’s deadline for action to increase the federal debt limit looms and Congress needs to borrow to fund the programs they’ve already agreed to.

There are other ways to address our fiscal problems that would not shut down or cripple critical services that America’s working families rely on, but instead create jobs to help boost economic growth. In a \$15 trillion economy, there is plenty of room to target investments in education, job training and job-creating infrastructure projects, but we need to act now.

# This Is What Democracy Looks Like!



Members from Local 8 (Seattle, Washington) join a rally in Madison, Wisconsin on February 25. Pictured are Local 8 member Charlie Best, President Goodwin, Local 8 President Kellie McGuire and Executive Board member Karen White.



President Goodwin, Local 9 (Milwaukee, Wisconsin) member and Wisconsin AFL-CIO Executive Assistant to the Secretary-Treasurer Marilinda Johnson, and OPEIU Director of Organization and Field Services Kevin Kistler on Friday, February 25 at the Wisconsin State AFL-CIO office at the Concourse Hotel.



The OPEIU Nurses Council bus, filled with OPEIU Registered Nurses from throughout the country, makes its way to Lansing, Michigan on April 13.



Local 12 (Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota) Bookkeeper Verretta Strickland and Secretary and Board Member Sharice McCain at a rally in Madison on February 25.



On February 26, Hawai'i Nurses' Association (HNA)/OPEIU Local 50 joined working families in the "American Dream" Rally to stand in solidarity with the people of Wisconsin. Pictured left to right are HNA Supporter Alexandra Brooking, HNA Director of Field Services Irene Pu'uohau, Erlinda Ferrer, RN, HNA Treasurer Elayne Schwartz and HNA Labor Relations Specialist Timothy Kawana.

# Democracy Looks Like!



On February 26, Leo and Judith Bandsma, members of Local 73 in Jacksonville, Florida attended a rally in Columbia, South Carolina, held in support of public employees in Wisconsin and other states under attack. Organized by Moveon.org, the rally was small but lively, with many people speaking in support of our sisters and brothers facing the loss of their collective bargaining rights.

South Carolina is a right-to-work state, so the biggest surprise was the number of people stepping up to say that, while they personally don't have a union, they support workers' rights to bargaining and the right to belong to a union.



Local 459 member Pat Smith's grandchildren, Camryn Ashley and La'kebreuna Ashley, pose with Reverend Jesse Jackson. Rev. Jackson spent a lot of time in Wisconsin, speaking and encouraging union members to stand strong. He also traveled in the OPEIU bus to several appearances.



Reverend Jesse Jackson joins Local 95 (Grand Rapids, Wisconsin) President Jeff Jester and International Representative Gary Nuber at a rally at the Madison Capitol on Saturday, March 12.

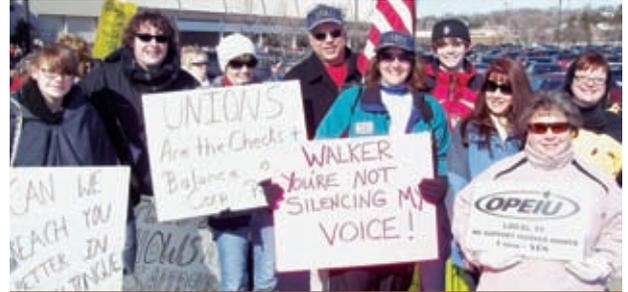


On April 4, HNA/OPEIU Local 50 joined various AFL-CIO unions at the State Capitol Rotunda in Honolulu to participate in a "We Are One" rally in solidarity with working people in Wisconsin, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan and dozens of other states where they are fighting for the rights Dr. King gave his life for. Pictured are Treasurer Elayne Schwartz, Executive Secretary Valerie Higa, HNA President Joan Craft, Vicky Poland, Vicky Hamada and Mark Cole.

# This Is What Democracy



Locals 153 (New York, NY) and 32 (Union, NJ) members join their sisters and brothers at IBEW Local 269 in Trenton, New Jersey at a roundtable, "Day of Solidarity," on April 4. This day marks the 43rd anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King's assassination in Memphis, where he was standing with sanitation workers demanding their dream of a better life.



Pictured from left to right are Local 39 (Madison, Wisconsin) members Nicholle Johnson, Camden Goetz, Business Agent Deb Eveland, Local 95 (Grand Rapids, Wisconsin) President Jeff Jester, Barb Saddison, Shane Saddison-Bradford, Susan Kress, Sue Steinert and Colleen Foth.



Region VII International Vice President and Local 512 (Lansing, Michigan) President Aaron Sanders, former Local 512 board member and activist Tony Smydra and President Goodwin at a rally in the State Capitol Building in Madison, Wisconsin on February 25.



Local 459 (Lansing, Michigan) member Lee Major, Local 40 (Mt. Clemens, Michigan) Trustee and Steward Dina Carlisle, RN, Local 42 (Farmington Hills, Michigan) Vice President Duane Spencer and Local 459 President Kevin Nix in Madison on March 19.



President Goodwin addresses the crowd at the New York State AFL-CIO "We Are One" rally on April 9 in New York City's Times Square.



Indiana legislators on March 15 in Urbana, Illinois, pictured with the OPEIU "This is What Democracy Looks Like" bus. The OPEIU bus has been a great tool for our members and others to join demonstrations throughout the country.

# ocracy Looks Like!



Local Union 277 (Fort Worth, Texas) members showed their support for teachers across the country, and attended a “We Are One” rally on April 6 in Austin, Texas. Pictured left to right are Denise Gilbert, Donna LaMontagna, Anna Bucaro, Hailey Onasch and Marcos Santos.

“Our members realize they have a vested interest in the outcome of what the states are trying to do to collective bargaining for public sector employees,” said Region IV International Vice President and Local 277 President and Business Manager Becky Turner. “They understand that an attack on one union is

an attack on all of us. Even down south in Savannah, Georgia, Brett Hulme, Local 277 member and President of the Savannah Regional Labor Council, gave an interview to the local NBC news affiliate supporting the public sector employees’ efforts. Brett told the reporter that he didn’t have to be in Wisconsin to have concerns about what he thinks is a union-busting attempt by the governor there, Scott Walker. Hulme said, ‘Most people forget they have a 40-hour work week and safe conditions in their workplace, thanks to unions.’ He went on to say, ‘What’s going on in Wisconsin is a lot more than trying to balance the budget.’

“We have members all across the country traveling to state houses to stand with the public sector employees in Wisconsin,” said Turner. “Our members Lori Onasch, Denise Gilbert, Anna Bucaro, Donna LaMontagna and Marcos Santos were in Wisconsin to stand with the teachers there. As well as Robin Ferrarro taking time from her busy schedule to travel from Illinois to staff the hospitality suite in Madison. Others stood with teachers in their respective state houses such as Tim O’Connor in Tulsa, Oklahoma; Vivian Dwyer in Richmond, Virginia; Susan Kelleher and Mary Keoh in Springfield, Massachusetts; Susan Fuldauer, Sean McArdle, Mike Libassi, and Thomas Watkins in Indianapolis, Indiana; Sue Gilbert and Denise Gilbert in Chicago, Illinois; and John Wagner, Judy Spade, Don Spohn and Krissa Hensley in Columbus, Ohio.”



At a “We Are One” rally on April 4 are Detroit City Councilwoman Brenda Jones (CWA), former OPEIU International Vice President for Diversity and Metro-Detroit CLUW President Millie Hall, and Metro-Detroit CLUW Executive Committee Member Brenda Standerfer-Jones (APWU).



Members of Local 153 joined other New Yorkers in a “We Are One” rally on April 9 in New York City. The rally was sponsored by the New York State AFL-CIO.

# Michigan Update: Bills Aimed at Breaking Unions

*Submitted by John DeTizio, Director of Labor Relations, Michigan Association of Governmental Employees (MAGE)*

Our brothers and sisters throughout the country who have heard Michigan's Governor Snyder proclaim that, "This is not Wisconsin," may be surprised to hear that the citizens of Michigan working in both the public and private sector are currently facing a host of bills and resolutions specifically aimed at breaking the backs of the unions, dismantling Civil Service in an effort to return to the "spoils system" and taxing our retirees.

The Republican-controlled Senate, House and Executive branch purport that this is simply an effort to address the state's budget deficit, which just happens to be exacerbated by the governor's concurrent cutting of our business tax. They contend they are "fairly" distributing the pain. Review the following bills and decide for yourself:

- HB 4125 Give emergency financial manager power to impose on collective bargaining agreement.
- SB 1020 Create right-to-work zones.
- SB 0020 Prohibit promulgation of rules for ergonomics in the workplace.
- HB 4135 The membership of board of trustees of certain police and fire retirement systems; make a prohibited subject of bargaining.
- HB 4205 Repeals PA 312 Police and Fire Arbitration.
- SB 0095 Repeals prevailing wage on state projects.
- HB 4159 Repeals the sunset on the 3 percent public worker contribution to pension.
- HB 4152 Freeze wages; no steps; pass health care costs on to public workers.
- HB 4142 Teacher tenure to be based on evaluation of teacher effectiveness; provide for, and allow for additional probationary period.
- HB 4140 Public Employee Health Care—creates health care plan for all public workers; eliminates collective bargaining.

Make no mistake, the fact that similar bills are surfacing in a number of other states is no coincidence. This is clearly an attempt to exploit the current economic crisis occurring in our country to divide and conquer. If we allow them to succeed, the CEO's in our country that currently make 560 times what a rank and file worker makes will make 1,000 times more.

This is big money trying to bust the unions to make it easier to make bigger money. How does this assault on the middle class affect our economy? Consider this: in 2009, the CEO of Johnson & Johnson slashed 9,000 jobs and took home \$25 million that year. HP's former CEO Mark Hurd cut out 6,400 jobs and made \$24 million. Fred Hassan of Schering-Plough received \$33 million while the company was laying off 16,000 workers overall. The Institute for Policy Studies concludes that the nearly \$600 million awarded to the top 50 CEO layoff leaders would pay unemployment benefits to 37,759 workers for an entire year.

Someone explain to me how this situation can be good for our economy. If that \$600 million goes to the 37,000 laid off

workers, it is spent instantly. It goes immediately back into the economy through purchases of clothing, food and services provided by fellow Americans (including small business owners) and it jump starts the economy. If that \$600 million goes to these CEOs, who made the same amount last year and the year before,

do they spend it? Can they spend it? No one can spend that much money... so there it sits, in their coffers... as the masses fight over the crumbs.

What is happening should be no surprise. When President Bush was in office, they cut taxes for the wealthiest Americans, and businesses. Guys like William Buffett and Rockefeller and Bill Gates all condemned the move. They said it would take billions out of our country's coffers and exacerbate the deficit. They understand that currently in this country, the richest 1 percent of Americans possess more wealth than the combined wealth of the other 90 percent. More disturbing is the fact that the current tax laws in place are allowing this 1 percent of Americans to get richer at an alarming rate. In 1982 there were 13 billionaires in America; in 1987 there were 49. Note that prior to 1986 the average number of American billionaires was 13, then the Reagan administration introduced new tax legislation favoring the top 1 percent. In 1986 the number of billionaires doubled. Today there are 99 billionaires and the tax laws that paved the way for this inequity are still in place.

Everyone knows that it's the middle class that pays taxes. It's the middle class that makes this country work. Keep giving all the money to the top 1 percent and taxes will not be paid, our deficit will grow, our infrastructures will crumble and what's left of the middle class will start fighting each other—public employees against private, salaried against hourly, union against non-union. Oh, wait...that's already happening.



**MAGE Director of Labor Relations  
John DeTizio**

## Show Your Support for Minor League Umpires!

Go to [www.opei.org](http://www.opei.org) to find the schedule of your local minor league baseball team, and go to a game and support AMLU/OPEIU Guild 322 members!

AMLU/OPEIU Guild 322

## NY Podiatrists Saved From Budget Ax

**O**PEIU Guild 45, the First National Guild of Healthcare Providers of the Lower Extremity, have stopped efforts by New York State to cut Medicaid coverage of podiatric services at hospitals and freestanding medical clinics.

The dire state of fiscal health in many states across the nation has led to numerous proposals of layoffs, department consolidations, and or service eliminations.

In NY state recently, the governor instituted a task force dubbed the “MRT” or Medicaid Reduction Team, whose job was to look for waste and overspending in the Medicaid budget.

One of the proposals included the elimination of podiatric services from “article 28” facilities in the state. This included hospitals and other freestanding medical clinics

serving mostly the poor and indigent population of the state.

This cut would have had disastrous consequences for the population served, most notably the diabetic, elderly and medically compromised patients who are at risk of limb loss and possibly death without proper podiatric care.

Also affected would be the podiatric residency programs and medical school clinics, which would in many cases no longer be sustainable without the access to Medicaid patients.

“Fortunately, the NY State Podiatric Medical Association working closely with our Albany lobbyists, the American Diabetes Association and with our OPEIU family, was able to stave off this cut and hopes to sustain this with continued sup-

port from these groups and the community at large,” said Gary Stones, DPM, Vice President of the NYS Podiatric Medical Association and Guild 45 Trustee.



**Gary Stones, DPM**

“Special acknowledgement goes to OPEIU Local 153 for their strong support and clear understanding of this vital issue affecting the podiatrists and podiatric patients in the state of New York,” Dr. Stones concluded.

## OPEIU Fights Back Against Assault on Workers’ Rights!

*(Continued from page 1)*

Madison and fight this thing until Walker and all anti-union forces throughout the nation are out of office.”

What began in Wisconsin has spread to more than 18 other states, including Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Florida, Maine and New Hampshire, with more than 500 pieces of anti-union legislation now being considered in state legislatures throughout the United States.

The labor movement – including OPEIU – and community groups and others have taken the fight nationwide, staging events to stop what has happened in Wisconsin, Ohio and others from happening in all 50 states.

To unite OPEIU members nationwide in the fight, the International Union made two buses available decorated with photos of OPEIU members and the slogan, “This Is What Democracy Looks Like,” which took members to events in Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, New York and New Jersey. Local Union members throughout the country also attended rallies in other states such as Texas, Florida, California, South Carolina and many others. “OPEIU members have shown tremendous support for the cause, making themselves available to attend rallies and encouraging their fellow workers to get out and be heard,” said President Goodwin.

On April 4, “We Are One” rallies were held in all 50 states to honor the anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King and to oppose attacks on the values that he worked for his entire life. “This is the most important civil rights struggle since Dr. King,” observed President Goodwin.

And on April 13, the OPEIU buses traveled throughout Michigan, picking up our union sisters and brothers and taking them to the “Defend the Middle Class” rally at the state capitol in Lansing, Michigan. OPEIU members from as far away as Local Union 29 in San Francisco and Local 50 in Hawaii—including members of the OPEIU Nurses Council—traveled to Lansing to show their support and send the message to our political leaders that it’s time to start protect-

ing middle class families—not corporate CEOs!

“This fight won’t be won in days, weeks or even months,” said President Goodwin. “Instead, this is a pivotal moment in the labor movement’s history. What happens now could, and will, determine our future.

“In state after state, politicians are playing politics by launching a coordinated attack on working families. They’re not giving up their pay or pensions, but they want working people to give up theirs. Tell your state legislators they should focus on creating good jobs with fair pay—not playing politics and attacking working people,” said President Goodwin. And, he said, there is a positive aspect to all of this.

“The fact is, Walker and his ilk have unified the Democratic party, unified labor unions, and more importantly, have provided the debate on the value and merits of collective bargaining that we’ve been hoping to have for years,” President Goodwin continued. “Now we have a national debate. The support for workers it out there, now we just have to harness it and educate workers, and bring them into the labor movement. We’re doing that now. We just have to keep up the fight and continue!”



**International President Michael Goodwin addresses the crowd in Madison, Wisconsin on February 25, 2011.**



## Joseph Marutiak Named OPEIU Vice President

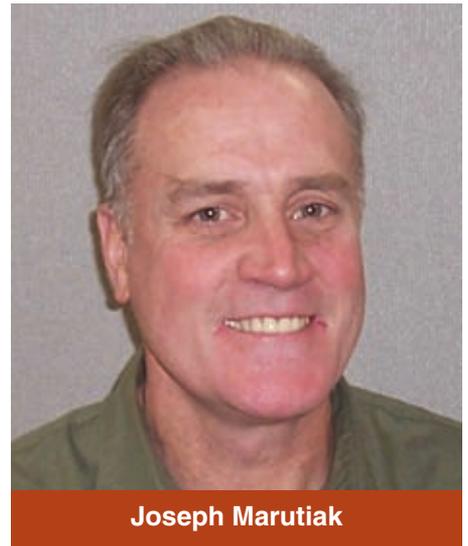
**T**he OPEIU Executive Board has named Joseph Marutiak to serve as Vice President for Region VII on the Executive Board. Marutiak is the Senior Service Representative for Local 459 in Lansing, Michigan.

“Joe has been a dedicated union leader for many years, and his life’s mission has been to better the lives of working families in Michigan and throughout the United States,” said President Goodwin. “His experience working at Local 459, defending members and negotiating higher pay and benefits, makes him the perfect person to represent the members of Region VII.”

Marutiak has served as Local 459 senior service representative since 2000, and was president from 1985 to 2000 where he

served as the lead negotiator and chief spokesperson during bargaining, processing grievances and organizing new units for the 3,700-member Local Union. Prior to his service at Local 459, Marutiak served as a case manager at C-E-I Community Mental Health and Shiawassee Community Mental Health. He has served on the Michigan AFL-CIO Executive Council since 1998, and the Lansing Association of Human Rights (LAHR) since 1989.

Marutiak replaces the retiring Vice President Cindy Jeffries, who has been appointed to serve as Commissioner of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS). Jeffries is one of four OPEIU members serving as an FMCS commissioner.



Joseph Marutiak

## President Goodwin and New York Governor Cuomo Talk Union Issues

International President Michael Goodwin meets with Governor Andrew Cuomo at the executive mansion in Albany, New York on Monday, March 28, 2011. Governor Cuomo invited President Goodwin, Region II International Vice President Richard Lanigan and other New York labor leaders to discuss issues of concern to union members, as well as the New York state budget. (See President Goodwin’s column on page 2 for more details about the visit).

