



Guild 45

The First National Guild for Healthcare Providers of the Lower Extremity



Volume 1 No. 1

Guild 45 Newsletter

Fall 2005

Guild Works for Passage of **S.440**, **H.R. 699**

New York Podiatrists met with Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY) on September 23, 2005 regarding important legislation, S.440, which would

guarantee access to quality foot and ankle care for Medicaid patients throughout the United States. Sen. Schumer is a co-sponsor of S.440 (H.R. 699), which

amends the definition of physician in the Medicaid statute (Title XIX) to include podiatric physicians, aligning Medicaid
(Continued on page 5)



NYPMA Vice President Dr. Robert Rampino, NYPMA Executive Director Leonard Thaler, and NYPMA President Dr. Edward A. Buro meet with Sen. Charles Schumer (D-NY) to seek his support for podiatry legislation. Following the meeting, the Senator signed on in support of S.440, which would amend Title XIX of the Social Security Act to include podiatrists as physicians for purposes of covering physicians' services under the Medicaid Program. The podiatrists are members of Guild 45.



New York State Podiatrists discuss Title XIX legislation with Senator Schumer. Seated left to right are: NYPMA President Elect Dr. Scott Altman, NYPMA Vice President Dr. Robert Rampino, NYPMA Executive Director Len Thaler, NYPMA President Dr. Edward A. Buro, Sen. Schumer, NYPMA Member Dr. Vito J. Rizzo, Chair of Labor Committee Dr. Gary Stones, NYPMA Past President Dr. Lawrence A. Santi, and OPEIU President Michael Goodwin.

Guild 45 Officers

Guild 45 officers are: John Mattiacci, President (PA); Stanley Gorgol, Secretary-Treasurer (NH); Edward P. Smith, Recording Secretary (VT); Michael Wodka, First Vice President (NY); Daniel Fulmer, Second Vice President (CA/AR); Kirk Contento, Third Vice President (IL); Donald Popper, Trustee (FL); and Norman Goldman, Trustee (TX).

Nominations/Elections Underway *Constitutional Amendment Approved*

In accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of Guild 45, nomination forms were mailed to all Guild members in good standing. A total of 26 candidates were nominated to fill the nine positions, namely, President, Secretary-Treasurer, Recording Secretary, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Third Vice President and three Trustees. Acceptance/declination notices were then sent to all nominated candidates, and the Guild is awaiting their reply. An election will follow by mail ballot for any contested positions. The term of office is for three years.

The proposed constitutional amendment which would continue the practice of Guild 45 to function as a Directly Affiliated Local Union (DALU) of OPEIU was approved by a vote of 299 to 15. While functioning as a DALU, the OPEIU undertakes the financial administration of the duties normally performed by the Secretary-Treasurer and Trustees of the Guild.

INSIDE

2 President's Message

5 How Do I Get Any Bang for My Dues Dollar?

3 Guild 45 Across the Nation

7 NGMP Trust Resolution

 President's Message



Working Together

Dr. John A. Mattiacci

I have received numerous questions in the past weeks relating to the AFL-CIO, and the changes that took place at the national convention. As you all know, major unions withdrew from the AFL-CIO and that leads to the following questions: What impact does that have on AFL-CIO? What impact does that have on OPEIU? What impact does that have on the Guild?

I can give you no better answer than that offered by President Sweeney in his remarks published below, delivered at the AFL-CIO Convention after two unions withdrew. As to the impact on OPEIU, we have increased our membership on the AFL-CIO Executive Council by two persons. Finally, as to the impact on the Guild, I refer you to the emphasized section of President Sweeney's remarks.

The Guild has pioneered non-traditional organizing and we will be involved in expanding that method of organizing with emphasis on growth.



The Future is Ours

By John J. Sweeney
President, AFL-CIO

The Preamble to the AFL-CIO Constitution is a remarkable document. It is our compass—our manifesto—our mission statement—and its powerful words remind me of the many layers of responsibility we shoulder as leaders of our federation.

Together with Rich Trumka and Linda Chavez-Thompson, and the sup-

port of our union brothers and sisters, we have reached many milestones in the past 10 years. And I promise you this: As long as I am president of the AFL-CIO, I'm going to work harder every day to move this great union movement forward into the future.

We will begin building the new power we need by a huge shift of AFL-CIO resources into organizing, so we can ratchet up strategic campaigns aimed at the likes of Wal-Mart, Comcast and Clear Channel and so we can provide serious incentives to encourage our affiliates to invest more and work harder and smarter to bring in new members.

We are substantially increasing the resources we are putting into mobilizing our members for political and legislative action and are transforming the way we do both.

We are changing the focus of our political work by mobilizing close to the ground—in our states and local communities—where we have the people-power to get our country moving on an upward path. And to make it happen, we will bring our state federations and labor councils from the back row to the front row in our march toward justice.

We are opening up a new front to challenge abusive corporate power by creating industry coordinating committees that will develop strategic organizing and bargaining plans and enforce contract standards.

And we are intensifying our campaign to pass the "Employee Free Choice Act" and guarantee all workers the freedom to form or join unions, and we will approve a plan to double the size of our new community affiliate, so by 2006 "Working America" will have 2 million

members.

In crafting these bold plans over the past several months, we not only solicited big proposals for change from our affiliates, we asked for ideas and comments from our rank-and-file members and activists. More than 9,000 of them responded.

The changes we are making are an ambitious blueprint. And we will proceed confidently, knowing that we will overcome any obstacles because we care.

We care enough to fight for our members. We care about working families here in our country and around the world. Most of all, we care about each other, and that's what creates the solidarity that is at the core of our movement and at the center of our lives. We care, and because we care, we will confront our challenges and our challengers alike. We will meet them with fight. We will meet them with commitment. We will meet them with courage.

We will struggle together—and stand together and fight together—until we win together.

GUILD 45 NEWSLETTER

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GUILD 45, OFFICE AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES
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affiliated with the AFL-CIO, CLC

DR. JOHN A. MATTIACCI
President



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Guild 45 Executive Board Meeting



Guild 45 Executive Board meets in Washington, D.C., April 16, 2005. Pictured left to right are: Dr. Rusty Cain (WV); Dr. Brian Warne (CA); Dr. Daniel Fulmer (AR); Dr. Stanley Gorgol (NH); OPEIU President Michael Goodwin; Dr. Norman Goldman (TX); Dr. Kirk Contento (IL); Dr. Donald Popper (FL); OPEIU Vice President and Guild 45 President Dr. John Mattiacci (PA); Dr. Michael Wodka (NY); Dr. Ed Smith (VT); and Mike Davis, Guild 45 (PA)

GUILD 45 SUPPORTS NEW YORK PODIATRISTS

In July, OPEIU President Michael Goodwin sent a letter to New York Governor George Pataki urging the governor to sign into law S.3236 LaValle, et al. and A.6143 Paulin, et al. as soon as possible. Goodwin's letter followed correspondence from New York State AFL-CIO Legislative Director Ed Donnelly stating that it supports the bill and urged immediate enactment by the Governor. According to Donnelly's letter, "this act is designed to expedite residency completion for residents in podiatric medicine under the supervision of a licensed podiatrist or physician."

The bill, beneficial to patients and providers alike, would enhance the efficiency of the hospital residency program by ensuring that the residency is completed under the supervision of a licensed podiatrist or physician.

Guild 45 continues to lobby for passage of this vital measure.

GUILD 45 ACROSS THE NATION

As an organization, our mission is twofold: we first aim to bring the political and legislative clout and power synonymous with the labor movement to the profession of podiatry. Secondly, with the alignment to labor, we also aim to offer members the benefits that come with organizing large groups of professionals with similar interests into one union: Quality retirement and life insurance, better pay and working conditions, financial services, job security, and, in our case, protections against the injustices of the managed care health system in this country. These are just some of the benefits available when we join in concert as a union.

Guild 45 is aggressively working to improve the perception of the profession of podiatry in states that are already in the Guild, and meeting with officials in other states in an effort to organize them to participate in the Guild. On the next page are some highlights and success stories from member states.

New Web Site on the Horizon

In addition to this Guild 45 Newsletter, we are also pleased to announce the launch of your new Guild 45 website, <http://www.guild45.org>. Though the site has not yet "gone live," it should be launched within the next few months. This professionally designed site will serve as an essential communications and marketing tool. The website will be an all-encompassing presence dedicated to podiatry and linked to podiatric member sites, which will help strengthen our organization and grow our membership.

NATIONAL NEWS

New York

Perhaps one of the most successful victories in New York State transpired earlier this year when Governor George Pataki sent his 2005 budget for approval. Medicaid cuts for podiatric services had been slashed from \$800,000 in last year's budget to a proposed \$204,600. Thanks to the efforts of the NYPMA and Guild 45, along with the presence of 500 podiatrists in the state capital, the Medicaid benefits in the Governor's budget were fully restored to the original \$800,000! It was a victory born of tenacity, and an example of what we can accomplish when we work together.

The new fight in Albany relates to the scope of practice bill introduced in the New York State Assembly. The bill would amend the education law regarding the definition of podiatry. While the bill may have repercussions in many areas in the future, the current concern is whether it is within the scope of podiatry to treat conditions of the ankle. In most states, podiatrists may treat every disease, malfunction, and malformation of the foot up to the ankle bone; ironically, in New York—home of one of only seven colleges of podiatry in the country—podiatrists must stop at the ankle and treat only the foot. The legislation seeks to widen the scope of practice. Not to do so is not only short-sighted, but it is potentially devastating to the future of podiatry in the State of New York.

Illinois

In Illinois, representatives from Guild 45 met with the United Steel Workers of America and Bridgestone/Firestone executives to deliver an educational presentation to inform them of the cost-effectiveness of podiatric services to their policyholders. For more than two hours, representatives emphasized the importance of including podiatric medical care in their employee's health plans. They further discussed the importance of using DPMs over MDs when



United Steel Workers and Bridgestone/Firestone meeting in Illinois. Pictured from left to right are Dr. Kirk Contento, DPM (IL); Dr. Larry Kosova, DPM (IL); Bob Bianchi, USWA Local 310; John Sellers, Executive Vice President of USWA; Kathleen A. Carr, Sr. Business Representative, OPEIU; Dr. Phil Morreale, DPM (Iowa); and Al Skinner, USWA Local 310.

treating the foot and ankle, and that DPMs are better trained and knowledgeable on the foot and ankle than MDs. The Guild made recommendations for modifications and amendments to the benefits plan, and we look forward to a favorable response.

California

The Guild has developed a strong relationship with the California Podiatric Medical Association (CPMA) and introduced them to, and helped them hire a legislative advocate, Barry Broad, Esq. With vast connections to the labor movement, Broad has helped the CPMA by protecting their interests in the negotiations for the new California Workers' Compensation laws. Further, we have assisted the CPMA in providing their members with greater access to Taft-Hartley funds, and we have been successful in including the CPMA in a growing number of union health care plans.

Florida

Under the leadership of Dr. Robert Katz, Florida members have signed on with the Guild through 2006. Showing solidarity, the Guild, though Dr. Donlad Popper, has since attended the Florida Alliance for Retired Americans (FLARA) legislative meeting in Tallahassee, and attended the

legislative lobbying meeting of the Florida AFL-CIO, also in the state capital.

Earlier, the Guild was instrumental in convincing United Health to drop its attempts to retroactively collect fees that had been paid for services in Florida.

Massachusetts

The Guild will provide expert testimony in support of MPMA's effort to include the ankle in their scope of practice. A legislative committee meeting is scheduled for November 2005.

Iowa

The Guild is working with the UAW Health Plan which covers employees at the John Deere plants to include Guild members on its provider panel.

In Summary

Guild 45 is proud of its national advocacy and continues to organize states into the Guild. The profession of podiatry is under attack. Alone, we will face an uphill battle but, together—united—there is nothing we cannot accomplish!

How Do I Get Any Bang For My Dues Dollar?

Guild membership is analogous to membership in a health club. The dues payment gets you through the door, but it doesn't build any muscles unless you use the machinery in the right way and on a regular basis. What does that mean?

It means that each state association that becomes a member of the Guild has the chance to use the Guild, the OPEIU and the AFL-CIO, but the association has to employ the "ICBM technique:"

"I" Identification is the first step. Identify the problem. Most of the healthcare problems that we see are union plans that have misidentified the term podiatry. They liken podiatry to routine foot care and they place caps on their plans either in terms of dollars or visits. If you identify this type of cap, or you identify any discriminatory practice you must report it to your executive director, or your Guild representative.

"C" Communication is the next step. The Guild will communicate the problem to the plan and to the union involved in the plan sponsorship. This may take a telephone call, or a series of calls or a meeting or a series of meetings, but it will be resolved. No plan that we have dealt with has turned us down completely on changing provisions that were harming our members.

"B" Brotherhood/Sisterhood is a core principle of the AFL-CIO. The entire constitution of the AFL-CIO and the OPEIU is based

upon the brotherhood and sisterhood of working men and women. In order to become a brother and sister, you have to take some time and make your presence felt. This can mean a lunch with the State AFL-CIO, or other union officers. It can mean going to the convention as a delegate. It can mean submitting articles on podiatry to union publications, but the big "B" stands for being there also. Help other unions that are on strike. Walk a picket line or give a foot screening. Being in the union is a give-and-take proposition. It doesn't work if you are always on the taking side.

"M" Make it happen. Making changes takes time and effort. Change happens when opportunity and industry unite. The Guild gives us the opportunity and you have to supply the industry. If you become a member, you see problems and you communicate with your brothers and sisters, then you have MADE changes happen.

This is what it is all about! An ICBM is a weapon in a military arsenal that carries the fight to the enemy. The Guild is an ICBM weapon in our arsenal. Let's take the fight to the front yards of those who would take our services without just compensation; to those who would deny our patients the right to our services and to those who would deny us the right to treat our patients with the care and effectiveness that we are educated to offer and prepared to give.

GUILD 45 SCHOLARSHIP

In January, Dr. Mattiacci, Dean at Temple University School of Podiatric Medicine, approached OPEIU with an idea to create a permanent scholarship fund at Temple in the name of OPEIU (Guild 45). Recently approved, the scholarship is available for any student pursuing the professional qualification of Doctor of Podiatric Medicine (DPM) who is the child of a member of OPEIU (Guild 45)—or any other union—and who has financial need.

In a letter to OPEIU, Mattiacci wrote, "Throughout my years of professional practice as well as dean of this school, I have fought to educate

the public about the importance of good foot care, to enhance the capability of podiatric medicine to provide such care, and to elevate the stature of the profession within the field of medicine as well as in the eyes of the world at large."

Sharing the same view, OPEIU responded, "We are all fighting for the

same goal. We feel that the scholarship is a terrific way to spread the word about the importance of podiatry, and the way to help our children—the children of union families—to gain a foothold into this important profession.

For more information about the scholarship, contact Dr. John Mattiacci at TUSPM (215) 625-5400.

Executive Directors Meeting Planned

The Guild is planning a meeting with all Executive Directors of the Guild Member Associations to coordinate Guild representation and improve effectiveness. Executive Directors will be notified when a date and location is set.

Guild Works for Passage of **S.440**, H.R. 699

(Continued from page 1)

with Medicare, which has always defined podiatrists as physicians. The bill currently has supporters in the Senate, including 4 Republicans, 13 Democrats and 1 Independent. Guild 45 and APMA lobbyists on Capitol Hill are working to continue to gain support.

The Guild also met earlier this year with bill co-sponsor, Senator Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.).



Pictured are Dr. Lloyd Smith, president of the American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA); Guild 45 President John Mattiacci, D.P.M.; Senator Kennedy; and OPEIU Director of Organization and Field Services, Kevin Kistler.

Legislators Support **H.R. 699** & **S.440**

(as of October 7, 2005)

ALABAMA

Rep Spencer Bachus (R)
Rep Jo Bonner (R)
Rep Artur Davis (D)
Rep Michael Rogers (R)

ARIZONA

Rep Raul Grijalva (D)

ARKANSAS

Rep Marion Berry (D)
Rep John Boozman (R)
Rep Michael Ross (D)
Rep Vic Synder (D)

CALIFORNIA

Rep Xavier Becerra (D)
Rep Christopher Cox (R)
Rep Susan Davis (D)
Rep Bob Filner (D)
Rep Jane Harman (D)
Rep Tom Lantos (D)
Rep Barbara Lee (D)
Rep Juanita Millender-McDonald (D)
Rep Dana Rohrabacher (R)
Rep Linda Sanchez (D)
Rep Adam Schiff (D)
Rep Fortney Stark (D)
Rep Diane Watson (D)
Rep Henry Waxman (D)

COLORADO

Rep Diane DeGette (D)
Rep Marilyn Musgrave (R)
Rep Mark Udall (D)

CONNECTICUT

Rep Rosa DeLauro (D)
Rep John Larson (D)
Rep Chris Shays (R)

DELAWARE

Rep Michael Castle (R)

FLORIDA

Rep Michael Bilirakis (R)
Rep Allen Boyd (D)
Rep Corrine Brown (D)
Rep Mark Foley (R)
Rep Alcee Hastings (D)
Rep Richard Keller (R)
Rep Jeff Miller (R)
Rep Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R)
Rep E. Clay Shaw (R)
Rep Debbie Wasserman-Schultz (D)
Rep Dave Weldon (R)
Rep Robert Wexler (D)
Rep C.W. Young (R)

GEORGIA

Rep John Lewis (D)
Rep Jim Marshall (D)
Rep Charles Norwood (R)

HAWAII

Rep Neil Abercrombie (D)
Sen Daniel Akaka (D)

IDAHO

Rep Michael Simpson (R)

ILLINOIS

Rep Luis Gutierrez (D)
Rep Mark Kirk (R)
Rep Ray LaHood (R)
Rep Janice Schakowsky (D)
Rep John Shimkus (R)
Rep Jerry Weller (R) [P]

IOWA

Rep Steve King (R)
Rep Tom Latham (R)
Rep James Leach (R)

KENTUCKY

Sen Jim Bunning (R)
Rep Ben Chandler (D)
Rep Geoffrey Davis (R)

Rep Ron Lewis (R)

LOUISIANA

Rep Richard Baker (R)
Sen Mary Landrieu (D)

MARYLAND

Rep Elijah Cummings (D)
Rep Wayne Gilchrest (R)
Sen Barbara Mikulski (D)
Rep C. Ruppertsberger (D)
Rep Chris Van Hollen (D)
Rep Albert Wynn (D)

MASSACHUSETTS

Rep Barney Frank (D)
Sen Edward Kennedy (D)
Rep John Olver (D)

MICHIGAN

Rep John Dingell (D)
Rep Dale Kildee (D)
Rep Thaddeus McCotter (R)
Rep Candace S. Miller (R)
Rep Joe Schwarz (R)

MINNESOTA

Sen Mark Dayton (D)
Rep Collin Peterson (D)

MISSISSIPPI

Rep Roger Wicker (R)

MONTANA

Sen Conrad Burns (R)

NEBRASKA

Rep Lee Terry (R)

NEVADA

Sen John Ensign (R)
Rep Jon Porter (R)

NEW JERSEY

Rep Rob Andrews (D)
Rep Robert Menendez (D)
Rep Frank Pallone (D)
Rep Steven Rothman (D)
Rep Christopher Smith (R)

NEW MEXICO

Sen Jeff Bingaman (D)
Rep Tom Udall (D)

NEW YORK

Rep Vito Fossella (R)
Rep Maurice Hinchey (D)
Rep Steven Israel (D)
Rep Carolyn McCarthy (D)
Rep Michael McNulty (D)
Rep Major Owens (D)
Rep Charles Rangel (D)
Sen Charles Schumer (D)
Rep Edolphus Towns (D)

NORTH CAROLINA

Sen Richard Burr (R)
Rep George Butterfield (D)
Rep Walter Jones (R)
Rep Mike McIntyre (D)

NORTH DAKOTA

Sen Kent Conrad (D)
Sen Byron Dorgan (D)
Rep Earl Pomeroy (D)

OHIO

Rep Sherrod Brown (D)
Rep Paul Gillmor (R)
Rep Stephanie Jones (D)

Rep Robert Ney (R)
Rep Deborah Pryce (R)
Rep Ted Strickland (D)

OKLAHOMA

Rep Frank Lucas (R)

OREGON

Rep Earl Blumenauer (D)
Rep Peter DeFazio (D)
Rep Darlene Hooley (D)
Rep Greg Walden (R)
Rep David Wu (D)
Sen Ron Wyden (D)

PENNSYLVANIA

Rep Robert Brady (D)
Rep Michael Doyle (D)
Rep Chaka Fattah (D)
Rep Melissa Hart (R)
Rep Todd Platts (R)
Rep Curt Weldon (R)

RHODE ISLAND

Rep Patrick Kennedy (D)

SOUTH CAROLINA

Rep Henry Brown (R)
Rep John Spratt (D)

SOUTH DAKOTA

Rep Stephanie Herseth (D)
Sen Tim Johnson (D)

TENNESSEE

Rep Bart Gordon (D)

TEXAS

Rep Charles Gonzalez (D) [P]
Rep Al Green (D)
Rep Gene Green (D) [P]
Rep Sheila Jackson-Lee (D)

UTAH

Rep Rob Bishop (R)
Sen Orrin Hatch (R) [P]

VERMONT

Sen James Jeffords (I)
Sen Patrick Leahy (D)
Rep Bernie Sanders (I)

VIRGINIA

Rep Eric Cantor (R)
Rep Virgil Goode (R)
Rep James Moran (D)

WASHINGTON

Rep Norman Dicks (D)
Rep Jay Inslee (D)
Rep Rick Larsen (D)
Rep Jim McDermott (D)
Sen Patty Murray (D)

WISCONSIN

Rep Tammy Baldwin (D)
Rep Mark Green (R)
Rep Ron Kind (D)
Rep Thomas Petri (R)
Rep Paul Ryan (R)

[P] — Official Notice Pending

NGMP TRUST RESOLUTION

Many OPEIU members were participants in the National Guild of Medical Professionals Health and Welfare Benefit Trust (NGMP Trust), which ended operations in 2002. While OPEIU was not involved in the creation, funding or administration of the NGMP Trust, we understand the financial and emotional turmoil that our members experienced when their medical claims were not paid. Therefore, from the time OPEIU first knew how serious the NGMP problems were, OPEIU fought to achieve a settlement that ensured that these claims would be resolved.

OPEIU started by trying to hammer out a settlement with those involved in the administration of the NGMP Trust. After much negotiation and hard work, OPEIU convinced the parties to contribute enough money to establish a fund to resolve more than \$3 million in claims. Once these commitments were secured, OPEIU reached a settlement with the Texas Department of Insurance, which specified a system to settle the unpaid claims across the country.

With this fund in place, OPEIU took over management of the claims payments last summer. This involved:

- Sending letters to the members telling them about

the claims resolution process;

- Engaging in difficult negotiations with medical providers;
- Responding to hundreds of letters, telephone calls, and e-mail messages from members and their providers; and
- Countless hours of researching and investigating claims.
- Transfer of OPEIU money to provide funding.

After all of this work, OPEIU has resolved the unpaid claims of most of the members. OPEIU has sent letters to those members listing the providers that were paid, and providing advice to help members repair their credit ratings.

Medical claims in Illinois were not included in this process, because the Illinois Department of Insurance had pursued its own separate action against the NGMP Trust, and resisted settling that action. OPEIU persisted, and finally in July of 2005 reached a settlement that permits resolution of Illinois claims on the same basis as the rest of the NGMP Trust claims. OPEIU is now resolving those claims.

Issues Confronted by Guild 45

Since the Guild 45 Constitution was established, your leadership has been working hard to promote the profession of podiatry. Below is a list of just some of the things we have been able to accomplish:

- Guild 45 has arranged multiple meetings with self insured union health plans where we were able to discuss plan changes and advantages for improved podiatry benefits.

- Guild 45 has helped to pass yearly resolutions at the New York State AFL-CIO Convention making all union affiliates aware of the need for support of legislation such as collective bargaining, parity and scope of practice.

- The Guild and NYPMA persuaded New York State Assemblyman Edward Sullivan to hold a hearing on the Acupuncture bill. OPEIU President Michael Goodwin testified in favor of the legislation on behalf of the podiatrists.

- NYPMA Public Relations Representative, Gloria Smith, has placed several articles about podiatry in union publications.

- In Pennsylvania, the Guild worked with the Association in gaining three legislative changes to insurance provisions that have harmed our members for more than twenty years.

- The Guild has continued its ongoing effort to engage representatives from podiatry in many central labor

councils in various states, and there have been several local successes as a result.

- The Guild held meetings with the various AFL-CIO State Labor Committees to discuss methods of approach to Taft-Hartley Funds and the Guild has provided lists of all the Taft-Hartley Funds throughout the country.

- The Guild sent letters to all New York State AFL-CIO affiliated unions requesting that they utilize union podiatrists. There were multiple unions for which lists of podiatrists in specific counties were provided and circulated to union members.

- The Guild worked continuously to follow up on problems with specific union plans, and has made changes in plans with United, Highmark, UMW and UAW, among others.

- The Guild set up meetings with local plans to address local problems.

- Flyers are being developed to circulate at all the Central Labor Councils in Guild states regarding the Scope of Practice and Parity Legislation.

- The Guild facilitated a Podiatry liaison to the AFL-CIO state legislative in eleven states.

- Certificates, decals and membership brochures have been created for members benefit.

- The Guild has developed a “model” bill that would allow DPM’s to negotiate with managed care companies. This legislation is structured in a man-

ner that allows the State AFL-CIO to “lead” in moving the legislation. This has already been used in different forms in three states.

- The Guild has developed a “model” process through which the Guild members can create or sit on a Health Policy Committee of the State AFL-CIO.

- The Guild is negotiating with two major international unions to create a carve out for their members and retired non-Medicare members on a national basis.

- The Guild has testified before the House Judiciary Committee in favor of legislation that would allow independent physicians to jointly negotiate fees.

- The Guild has spoken before three AMA forums on the unionization of physicians, and continues to advocate the alliance between our services and the community of labor unions that purchase our services.

Some quick facts about the Guild:

- The cost of Guild membership is approximately \$110 per year, which is 30¢ per day!
- The Guild provides membership benefits through the AFL-CIO Union Privilege program. For more information call 212-675-3210 or email at frontdesk@opeiu.org

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