



The Professional Pen

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Jaqueline K. White-Brown
Business Manager / Secretary Treasurer

We, the Officers and Staff of OPEIU Local 537, hope you enjoyed your holiday season and wish you a wonderful New Year.

As we embark on this new year, we need to take inventory and reflect on the previous year. We have to know where we've been to know where we're going. We need to know what works for us and expand on that knowledge without holding on to that which defeats our progress; making us valuable individuals.

It seems the struggle gets harder and harder with each year. As some of you may know, but all of us should know, the current Administration has declared war on all unions. For those that do not understand, unions barely escaped Freidrichs, but now JANUS and National Right to Work are forging ahead with a vengeance. Without the financial support of membership dues there will be no union jobs. We're not just talking about OPEIU, but your employers as well. The impact of this could potentially be devastating to the labor movement and middle class workers; **OUR LIVES.**

We're not just fighting the government, but as we sit at the negotiation table, our Employers continue to question our professionalism and abilities to efficiently perform in our positions. Bottom line, they have an issue with some highly compensated employees lacking education and/or the skillset necessary to qualify for such salaries.

With that being said, it is imperative that each and every one of us take a class (*online or in the classroom*) to improve our skills to be competitive in both union and the non-union workplaces. We do not know the outcome of the decisions that are before us in the near future and how they will affect our livelihood.

I do apologize for having to start the year off with such bleak information. However, we must stay informed. We cannot turn a blind eye to the current affairs. **WE MUST BETTER OURSELVES AND STAND STRONG TOGETHER!**



Membership Recognition Awards

We invite you to celebrate with us as we recognize our brothers and sisters on their years of service with OPEIU Local 537. Our "Annual Membership Recognition Awards" takes place on January 17, 2018 at our General Membership Meeting. Members who have five or more years of continuous membership, in 5-year increments, will be recognized for their service. Light refreshments will be served.

If you would like to be recognized and receive your pin, you can make your request on the home page of the website www.opeiu537.org, or by contacting Marlene Matsuda or Dana-Lyne Fisher at 626-577-5600. Service Pins are **ONLY** provided upon the member's request. If you are unable to attend this month's meeting to receive your pin, please contact our office.

The Officers and Staff would like to thank you for your continuous years of service.

Scholarships

Each year, OPEIU provides scholarship funds to assist members and associate members to further their higher education and career goals.

The **Howard Coughlin Memorial Scholarship** is awarded each year to members or their children for undergraduate university or college education. The deadline for application submission is March 31, 2018.

The **John Kelly Labor Studies Scholarship** provides assistance to members or associate members, who wish to pursue undergraduate or graduate degrees in labor studies, industrial relations, social science, or a related field. The deadline for application submission is March 31, 2018.

The **Romeo Corbeil/Gilles Beauregard Scholarship Fund** awards children of OPEIU members a chance to go to Summer Camp. The deadline for application submission will be announced by the International. You can check their scholarship page for application availability.

To get an application, and more information, please go to the International's website www.opeiu.orgMemberResources/UnionBenefits/UnionScholarships.aspx.



APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Members' Corner



New Members

We would like to welcome the following members to OPEIU Local 537 and extend an invitation to come to our next membership meeting on January 17, 2018 to be initiated.

Chris Abele	Graviela Garcia	Brenda A. Romo
John Alvarez	DeAnna M. Kirk	Fez Shah
Dana Beale	Ruth Knighton	Chane Singletary
Amy Bosler	Niko Luna	Cameron Smith
Krystal N. Chavez	Ellen J. McCrea	Guadalupe Villagran
Rosalinda Cordova	Jezzalyn Morales	Christine Vuong
Jase D. Cutler	Raymundo Raya-Perez	Dion Wiltshire

Happy Life!

Congratulations to **GAIL WINKLES**, who retired from Firefighters of Los Angeles City Local 112 on December 31, 2017, after 10 years of service. She had previously worked for Bricklayers Local No.4 for 10 years.

We wish you all the best, Gail! 🍷



Important Dates to Remember

Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday
(office closed)
January 15, 2018

Service Award Ceremony/Membership Meeting
January 17, 2018

Presidents' Day
(office closed)
February 19, 2018

Ratified Contracts

IAMAW District Lodge 947
Labor Management Compliance Council
Operating Engineers Trust Funds, Inc. (Economics)
San Diego Electrical Training Administrative Services
Smith, Steiner, Vanderpool & Wax

We Can Do It!



OPEIU
Union Strong!

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2018, 7:00 PM, AT THE OPEIU OFFICES.