



The Professional Pen

A Publication of Office & Professional Employees International Union, Local #537/AFL-CIO, CLC
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JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2019

Jacqueline K. White-Brown

Business Manager / Secretary Treasurer

The Officers and Staff of OPEIU Local 537 hope you enjoyed your holiday season and wish you a Happy Healthy Prosperous 2019.

It seems each year our current Administration has declared war on the livelihood of Americans. As of January 4, our Federal Government has been shut down for fourteen days, over funding for a wall. This is the first time in history that the Government has been shut down three times in one year, according to CNN. You may not be aware, but our International Union represents Government employees. Many of these individuals are being furloughed or forced to work without compensation. Please keep our fellow workers and our nation in your prayers in the hope that this comes to an end expeditiously.☞

New Dues Rates February 1, 2019

Each year, the International Union imposes Per Capita increases on each Local, and in turn, each Local is expected to pass along the increase to its members. With this in mind, we would like to remind you that the last time Local 537 increased dues on its members was October 1, 2015. For the past three years, the Per Capita increase was not passed on to our members, *as mandated by our International Union*. This increase to the International Per Capita has been absorbed from our budget. While Local 537 tries to minimize the costs to our members, we can no longer absorb the increase. We have experienced an enormous amount of legal fees due to our continuous fight with some of our employers.

Effective **February 1, 2019**, the monthly dues will be increased by **two dollars (\$2.00)** per month; which is less than the four dollars and fifty cents (\$4.50) increase that we have been obligated to pass on to our membership. This two dollar increase equates to about one cent (1¢) per working hour, per month. Even with this modest increase, we are less than some industry standards with our sliding scale.

We hope you understand the necessity for our Local to make this necessary decision to increase the dues at this juncture to sustain ourselves.☞

Join Us **As We Celebrate You!**



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 16, 2019, 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.☞

Important Dates to Remember

**Service Award Ceremony/
Membership Meeting**
January 16, 2019

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's Birthday
(Office Closed)
January 21, 2019

Presidents' Day
(Office Closed)
February 18, 2019

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 16, 2019 to be initiated.☞

Djenane Beaulieu	Alexis Lincheta	Lizeth Rodriguez
Josefa Cruz	Lyn Moon	Brandy L Rose
Joseph Foss	Andrew Morris	Alejandra Silva
Fabiola Godinez	Allie Morse	Joanne Takahashi
Minerva Gomez	Maria Mulvey	Debra Tristan
Michelle Guerra	Marleny R Ortiz	Silva Villegas
Jennyfer Jimenez-Galvan	Karen A Rodriguez	Jocelyn Zepeda



your retirement dreams await

The Officers and staff wish to congratulate **Valerie "Wendy" Dillard**, who retired from SAG-AFTRA on December 31, 2018, after 30 years of service. We wish you much success and a long, healthy, and happy retirement.☞

Ratified Contracts

DeCarlo & Shanley
IATSE Local 871
IBEW Local 18
IBEW Local 413
Laborers Local 783
Pacific Southwest Administrators (*Economics*)
San Diego Electrical Industry Administrative Corporation

Southern Calif. IBEW-NECA Administrative Corporation (*Economics*)
Teamsters Local 631 (*Economics*)
UA District Council 16
UA Local 525—Plumbers & Pipefitters JATC
UAW Local 509

With Deepest Sympathy... It is with heavy hearts that Local 537 extend our heartfelt condolences to Adela Lambert, IBEW Local 952, whose mother passed away on December 11, 2018. Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers.☞



UNION PLUS SCHOLARSHIPS

Helping Union Families With the Cost of College

APPLY NOW

The 2019 Union Plus Scholarship application is now open.

Deadline to apply: January 31, 2019

Please click this banner for more information.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2019, AT 7:00 PM AT THE OPEIU OFFICE