



# The Professional Pen

A Publication of Office & Professional Employees International Union, Local #537/AFL-CIO, CLC  
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*Jacqueline K. White-Brown*

**Business Manager / Secretary Treasurer**

We have just returned from OPEIU International’s 28<sup>th</sup> Triennial Convention, which was held in Las Vegas, Nevada. At the convention the delegates Reelected Richard Lanigan as our International President and Mary Mahoney was Reelected Secretary-Treasurer for a fourth term. Also, our very own Business Representative, Lynnette Howard, WOWED the convention delegates on opening day with her rendition of the National Anthem, she definitely made us proud.

“New Model for a New Union” is our theme for the next three years. which means for us, we can no longer operate in the same fashion, we cannot continue to do the same thing and expect different results. With that, we must find new and inventive ways of running our organization and understand what it takes to be a strong union member working in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. We as veteran members, must collaborate with the young adults by listening to their new ideas, new ways of communicating and connecting with others. As they listen to us and we share our thoughts, concerns and experiences with them. Together we will construct a New, Bigger, Better, and Stronger Labor Union.

As we have said in the past and we will continue to say in the future...

**“This Place Works Because I Do”**



Let’s remember this motto as we go out to start our day of employment, organize new members and set our goals on achieving the best possible collective bargaining agreement. ↪



(From Left) Jacqueline K. White-Brown, Business Manger, Lynnette T. Howard Business Representative, Maria Riggs, OPEIU 537 Vice- President

## It Pays to be a Member

As a member of OPEIU Local 537, there are some benefits that are exclusively available to you. Below listed are OPEIU membership benefits offered to you, our members.

### Death and Accidental Death Benefit

- \$2,000 death benefit
- \$2,000 accidental death and dismemberment benefit

Identity Protection

OPEIU Student Debt Reduction

OPEIU Free College

### Towing Services

Two towing/service calls per year for members and family living in the same household, valued up to \$100 each. OPEIU’s 24-hour Sign and Drive Plan includes:

- Free hook up and tow ....up to 15 miles
- 24-hour emergency roadside assistance
- 24-hour emergency battery service
- 24-hour emergency lockout service
- 24-hour emergency tire service
- 24-hour delivery of supplies
- Travel discounts and much more

OPEIU Union Privilege Programs offers over 40 benefits your family needs such as discounts on products, loans, other financial programs, entertainment offerings, and other benefits...too many to mention here. To see all the benefits offered to you, please visit the International website at [www.opeiu.org](http://www.opeiu.org). Once you are logged into the site, click on Resources/OPEIU Membership Benefits link.

It “pays” at work and home to be a Union member. ↪

# 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 September 18, 2019 to be initiated.☺

Cynthia Bishop  
Inmar A Blanco  
Julia M Brennan  
Thevenet Gayle  
Brandon Golden  
Ciani Hernandez

Ericka Hernandez  
Rosylu Luong  
Jason Murray  
Christina M Olmos  
Rusel Pool  
Ariel Sandoval

Richard A Simmons  
Elizabeth Smith  
Lawrence A Strozeski  
Jasmine Tsukada  
Francisco J Vargas  
Martina Vasquez

Yesenia Vasquez  
Kenny Wong  
Brooke Workman

## Happy Life!...

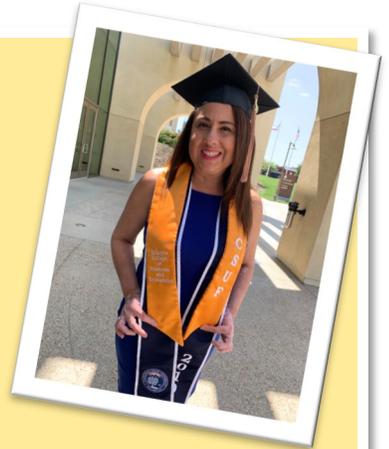
The Officers and Staff wish to congratulate three of our long-term members on the occasion of their retirement. **Debra Blasyak** who retired from IBEW Local 441 on May 1, 2019 after 24 years of service. We wish to also congratulate **Robin Lynn Jones** who retired from United Teachers Los Angeles after 31 years of service and **Dorothy Martinez** who retired from Rothner Segall & Greenstone after 17 years of service.☺

## Ratified Contracts

A&J Training Trust Fund  
Benefit Programs Administrators  
Iron Workers Local 433  
Professional Musicians Local 47  
Plumbers & Pipefitters Union Local 525  
United Teachers Los Angeles

## Congratulations

The Officers and Staff of Local 537 offer a congratulations to our long time member of 28 years, **Karla Carter** from IBEW Local 441 who graduated from California State University of Fullerton, with a Bachelor degree in Business Administration. We wish you continuous success.☺



**With Deepest Sympathy...** It is with the heaviest of hearts that we report on the passing of one our members **Mieko (Mimi) Chin** who passed away on June 8, 2019. Sister Mimi was a twenty-one year member of Local 537, who was employed with United Teachers Los Angeles for over thirty-one years. Her presence will be missed.

We extend further condolences to Jeremy Padilla (*SAG-AFTRA*) on the passing of his father on May 19, 2019, and to Debra Whitford (*Plumbers Local 398*) whose husband passed on June 28, 2019.

Please keep our sisters and brother in your thoughts and prayers.☺

PLEASE NOTE  
THERE WILL BE NO GENERAL  
MEMBERSHIP MEETING IN  
JULY.  
SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER

HAPPY  
Labor Day

In observance of Labor Day on Monday, September 2, our office will be closed.