



# The Professional Pen

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Business Manager / Secretary Treasurer

Many people wonder if unions are truly necessary. When you listen to the media, unions are misrepresented as to what they stand for. We are not the political giants that the 1% would have you to believe. It has been indoctrinated into the hearts of individuals over the years that unions are nonessential. What unions have done and continue to do is fight for the rights of the middle class and those that are impoverished.

The laws that we see today are because of what unions have fought for over the years; vacation time, sick time, overtime, job protection when you are on leave, and minimum wage, just to name a few.

The people in authority are trying to eradicate the progress that has been made over the years. Unions are hanging in the balance with the ability of the Janus decision to change the lives of union members. Many people do not understand the ramifications of this decision. Unions that represent public sector employees are bracing themselves for a mass exodus of its fair share employees. The loss of these members will inevitably cause public sector employers to layoff their employees (*our members*); teacher unions, SEIU, AFSCME, are some of the unions that could be adversely affected upon the decision.

Now is **NOT** the time to lose hope or sit on the sidelines, but it's time to set aside any differences we

may have against one another. It's imperative that we stand together and fight, not just for our selves, but for every working person. It's time for everyone to take an active role to build power and strengthen our local unions. The future of our labor movement *and OPEIU* depends on members who are committed to organizing and to advocating for justice at the local union level and in the wider community. ☺



## Negotiations for Standard Trade Union Offices

We are preparing for the upcoming negotiations for the Standard Trade Agreement. Surveys will be mailed to the homes of those who are covered under this Agreement on March 12, 2018. Please take a moment to complete your survey. You may return it to us via US mail, by e-mail to danalyne@opeiu537.org, or by fax (626) 577-0100. This is an essential step in ensuring your voice is heard in the preparation for negotiations.

We encourage you to come out on Wednesday, April 11, 2018, at 7:00 pm to take part in the process of developing proposals for negotiations and to select a negotiating committee. ☺



## Maria Landa-Rios Memorial Scholarship

We will be accepting applications for the Maria Landa-Rios Memorial Scholarship. This year, we will award one (1) scholarship for one thousand two hundred dollars (\$1,200.00) to a member of OPEIU Local 537, their spouse, or child who is attending, or is registered to attend, an accredited college or university. Please contact our office for the application and a list of requirements and rules. If you have internet access, the application will be available on our website [www.opeiu537.org](http://www.opeiu537.org) on March 19, 2018. Applications must be submitted by May 1, 2018. The award recipient will be announced at the Membership Meeting on May 23, 2018. ☺

## International Scholarships Deadline Reminder

Howard Coughlin Memorial: **March 31**  
John Kelly Labor Studies: **March 31**  
Romeo Corbeil/Gilles Beauregard: **April 30**

# 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 March 21, 2018 to be initiated.

Cecilia Adams  
Peter Dokko  
Kristin Fulton  
Sarah Griffith

Julie Herron  
Anthony Lewis  
Nerissa Partida  
Aaron Perez

Marco Perez  
Gabriela Pohlman  
Heide Rodriguez  
Jennifer Rodriguez



Ana Hernandez (left) 15 years  
and Maria Riggs (right) 40+ years

## Membership Recognition Awards

At the January 17, 2018 Membership Meeting, we honored our members for their years of continued service with Local 537. For those present at the meeting and received their Pins, thank you for taking the time to join in the celebration honoring our fellow members.☺

### 5 Years

Victor Mercado  
Christina Reed  
Natalie Vasquez

### 10 Years

Emilyann Chavarria  
Minerva Frias  
Michelle Kim  
Brandon Schwebs

Dania Travanty  
Alisea Ware

### 15 Years

Ana S. Hernandez  
Symone Leyvas  
Evelia Posada  
Francis Terrado  
Diane Wendt

### 20 Years

Gloria Luna  
Tiffany Pham  
Annette Tijerina

### 30 Years

Debi Sabedra  
Diane Slater

### 40 Years

Bea Sandt

## Happy Retirement

After almost twenty years of service, Joan Silver has retired from Bush, Gottlieb, a Law Corporation on February 1. OPEIU wishes you the best on your *new* adventure in life.☺

## Ratified Contracts

IBEW Local 11  
IBEW-NECA Admin. Corp.  
(Economics)  
Machinists Lodge 725

**With Deepest Sympathy...** It is with heavy hearts that Local 537 extend our heartfelt condolences to Leticia Soto, AFSCME District Council 36, whose mother passed away on February 17, 2018. Please keep Leticia and her family in your thoughts and prayers.☺



**You are the Union...** It is imperative that you attend union meetings to keep abreast of what is going on with your union. We have 5 membership meetings each year, and they last between 30 and 45 minutes, depending on the topics discussed. It is a small investment of your time, which can yield rewards for you and your union sisters and brothers. We encourage you to attend these meetings. Without YOU, there is no UNION.☺

**Union Success Lies in Your Hands**

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 2018 @ 7:00 PM AT THE OPEIU OFFICE**