



# The Professional Pen

A Publication of Office & Professional Employees International Union, Local #537/AFL-CIO, CLC  
www.opeiu537.org • 3229 E. Foothill Blvd., Pasadena, CA 91107

VOLUME 27 ■ ISSUE 3

WWW.OPEIU537.ORG

MAY / JUNE 2019

*Jacqueline K. White-Brown*

**Business Manager/Secretary Treasurer**

**W**e at Local 537 are being faced with a new and confusing challenge from a couple of our Union Employers. For some reason, the Employer has decided, OPEIU members do not need to have union representation. They have the audacity to want their staff to be at-will employees, which is everything the union is not. What is baffling to me is why it is okay for the Employer to be a proud union member...but not YOU (*our OPEIU staff member*).

Let's talk a little bit about OPEIU International Union. We were chartered in 1945. With 104,000 members strong, we are one of the larger unions in the AFL-CIO. OPEIU has Local unions throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, Canada and the District of Columbia. OPEIU members work in many settings as varied as: banking and credit unions, insurance, higher education, shipping, hospitals, nursing homes, medical clinics, social services, utilities, transportation, manufacturing, hotels, offices and more. So, as you can see, most would and should be proud to be a part of this organization. Let us not forget the benefits in your CBA, such as paid vacation, retirement, wages, and health insurance. These benefits do not come from the kindness of your Employer. It was achieved, in most cases, through years of negotiations. However, if the Employer is feeling kind and would like to offer over and above the agreement, we are all for it; let's put it in the agreement. Don't be fooled into believing they have your best interest at heart.

Please understand we are representing members everyday to ensure they continue to have a job and receive these benefits. If we are fighting with an agreement... imagine what will happen without an agreement and the Union to represent you.

I am sure no one wants to turn back the times... Let's continue to move forward with the union benefits we have and work towards more!

We are all better together... **WE CAN DO IT!** ☞



## **OPEIU's 28th Convention**

Join us for a union experience like no other; a chance to be part of the first-ever live stream from an OPEIU Convention on June 10, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. PDT. This live stream will *only* be available to OPEIU members. To receive a password to join the live stream, you must register at [opeiu.org/2019Convention](http://opeiu.org/2019Convention). ☞

## **It Pays to be a Member**

As a member of OPEIU Local 537, there are some benefits that are exclusively available to you. Below are some educational benefits offered to you, our member. Please pay attention to the deadlines, as you do not want to miss out on this year's benefits.

### **Free College**

If enrolling in college is part of your or your family members' plans this summer, you should consider Union Plus Free College. Earn an associate degree online – completely for free. Don't delay! Classes start on **May 28, 2019**.

### **Student Debt Reduction Program**

The OPEIU Student Debt Reduction Program offers a great benefit for **OPEIU members**. Five \$2,500 scholarships are awarded in July of each year. Applicants must meet the eligibility requirements and comply with the Rules and Regulations as established by the OPEIU Executive Board. Applicants are eligible to receive only one \$2,500 lifetime award.

The application deadline for this benefit is **June 30, 2019**. Further information and applications can be obtained from the International website at [www.opeiu.org](http://www.opeiu.org). Once you are logged into the site, click on the Member Resources/OPEIU Membership Benefits link.

### **Maria Landa Rios Scholarship**

This scholarship is awarded to our Local 537 members, their spouse or child attending an accredited college or university. Unfortunately, we did not receive any applications for the 2019 Maria Landa Rios Scholarship. Hopefully, next year, you or your family member will take advantage of this wonderful opportunity. ☞

# 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 May 15, 2019 to be initiated. 🌸

Salma Barrios  
Krystian Corona  
Jason M Corrales

Veatriz Guerra  
Carolina Hess  
Pandora S Ishii

Justine Lee  
Daniela Mansoorian  
Elisa Martinez

Bridgitte Seekins  
Alice G Torres

**Congratulations...** Local 537 sends cheers and congratulations to the following members on their newborn babies:

Claudia Padilla, who works at United Teachers Los Angeles, on the birth her baby boy, born on March 23. Kyrie weighed 8 lbs. 11 oz..

Adrian and Stephanie, who work at SAG-AFTRA, on the birth of their baby girl, born on December 22, 2018. Emma weighed 6 lbs. 13 oz. 🌸



## Ratified Contracts

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 357

**With Deepest Sympathy...** Local 537 extends our heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Yvonne Furbush, who passed away March 17, 2019. Sister Furbush worked at United Teachers Los Angeles and was a member of OPEIU since 2002.

Please keep the Furbush family in your thoughts and prayers. 🌸



## Dates to Remember

General Membership Meeting  
May 15, 2019

Memorial Day  
(Office Closed)  
May 27, 2019

Independence Day  
(Office Closed)  
July 4-5, 2019

