



The Professional Pen

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SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2018

Jaqueline K. White-Brown Business Manager / Secretary Treasurer

Summer is coming to a close and I hope you all took advantage of the vacation time available to you in your contracts. On Monday, September 3, we were afforded the opportunity to celebrate Labor Day. This holiday was granted, along with a five-day work week, minimum wage, overtime, pension security, and workers' compensation insurance, thanks to the hard work of union members. Today, we are faced with a group of individuals that would love to rewrite history by reversing laws that were hard fought for and won through the efforts of union brothers and sisters. Let's remember this when we hit the polls. *Everyone needs to "Get Out and Vote!"*☞

Executive Board Vacancy

The Executive Board has a vacant position. Members interested in serving on OPEIU Local 537's Executive Board must meet the following requirements as stated in the Bylaws "must have been a member of the Local Union in continuous good standing for at least twelve (12) months immediately prior to election and attend at least three (3) Regular Membership meetings of OPEIU Local 537 in twelve (12) months prior to nomination". We encourage you to submit your name and the reasons you are interested in serving on the Executive Board to our office, by fax to 626-577-0100. Upon receipt of notification, we will call you before the Executive Board to be interviewed. Executive Board Members are Officers of the Union and are vested with the powers and duties as provided in our Bylaws. The Executive Board meets monthly (*July excluded*) and they are often requested to attend informational meetings, steward training classes, and functions where the Executive Board determines that Local 537 needs to be represented. We look forward to hearing from those of you who are interested in serving your local union and fellow Sisters and Brothers.☞

New Bargaining Unit

We would like to welcome Ironworkers Apprenticeship Training, located in LaPalma, CA, as our newest signatory employer. Congratulations to our newest members Marisol Fuentes, Cynthia White-Luna, Elsa B. Hernandez, and Consuelo Palacios (*from left to right*) for fighting for your right to organize. Please join our Officers in welcoming our newest union members. We are glad to have you with us.☞



Your Vote Counts

Tuesday, November 6, 2018, is Election Day. Midterm elections have historically had a low voter turnout. As a result, conservative voters tend to come out en masse to

cast votes against the interests of working families and individuals. There has been a series of attacks on unions by the Supreme Court, current Administration and billionaire corporate special interests. In the wake of these attacks, a wave of union workers, young people, and those who have watched their quality of life decline, are rising up to fight for their future. In its effort to secure the rights of working families, the labor movement has been organizing massive mobilizations in several Congressional districts with a goal to turn them from red to blue, and recruiting worker-friendly candidates. Volunteers from the labor movement are going out on door-to-door campaigns to inform non-union voters on the candidates and issues at stake in the Congressional races.

To find more information about the General Election and endorsements in your state, go to the OPEIU Local 537 website (www.opeiu537.org). Remember ... your vote is your voice.☞



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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 19, 2018 to be initiated. 🌸



Juan J. Becerra
Emily Bell
Carmen Blaser
Ginerva Brigham
Avn T. Cao
Jennifer Castillo
Angelita I. Gamez
Rasdhad Gardner

Kathleen Hiipakka
Camila Lacques
Alison Manzanares
Katherine J. Mapile
Mary A. Mays
Erika Morton
Mercedes Oviedo
Elpidio Perez-Solis

Veronica A. Reyes
Kassandra Romero-Garcia
Stacia L. Shigg
Kim Tyminski
Virginia Uribe
Helena Williams-Vann
Ian Zulueta

Happy Lives!

On July 16, 2018, SEIU Local 721 held a luncheon in honor of OPEIU Local 537 members on their retirement. The Officers and Staff of Local 537 add our congratulations to our members for their years of service at Local 721. (From left) Cynthia Garcia (31 years), Darlene Taylor (30 years), Local 537 Business Representative Lynnette Howard, Beng Panado (5 years), Maria Renteria (11 years). Not present was David Okihiro (39 years). 🌸



Ratified Contracts

Actors' Equity Units 1 & 2
Sheet Metal Benefit Plans Admin.
Corp. (Economics)
UA Local 761—Plumbers
Union Roofers Local 36
Utility Workers Local 132

New Lives!

Local 537 sends cheers and congratulations to Silvia Rangel of Southern California IBEW-NECA Administrative Corporation, on the birth of her daughter, Riley, who was born on July 14, and weighed in at 7 lbs. 4 oz and measured 20 inches.

Congratulations also goes Monique Gutierrez of Asbestos Joint Apprenticeship, who gave birth to a little baby boy on July 25. Emanuel was 7 lbs. 12 oz., and was 20.5 inches. 🌸

WHAT IS A UNION?
IT'S SIMPLE, REALLY

UNIONS ARE WORKERS WHO STAND TOGETHER to bargain with their bosses for better pay, safer working conditions and decent benefits. When workers stand together, we have power. And that power makes the American Dream more possible for everyone.

California LABOR
WORKING PEOPLE STANDING TOGETHER

WHO NEEDS UNIONS?
WE ALL DO. Corporate CEOs have gotten rich by negotiating multi-million dollar pay packages for themselves while not allowing workers to negotiate a living wage for our families. Unions even the playing field for all workers by standing up to big corporations and fighting for laws that protect everyone.

WHAT HAVE UNIONS DONE FOR ME?
WORKING PEOPLE STOOD TOGETHER in their unions to create the 40-hour work week, paid vacations and good, American, wages. Today, unions are still the only counterbalance to corporate power.

UNIONS RAISE STANDARDS FOR ALL WORKERS

- FAMILY & MEDICAL LEAVE ACT
- PREGNANCY & PARENTAL LEAVE
- ALL BREAKS AT WORK (INCLUDING LUNCH BREAKS)
- WEEKENDS & PAID VACATION
- SICK LEAVE
- MINIMUM WAGE
- SOCIAL SECURITY
- OVERTIME & HOLIDAY PAY
- CHILD LABOR LAWS
- PRIVACY RIGHTS
- CIVIL RIGHTS
- HOMEOWNERS' BILL OF RIGHTS
- 40 HOUR WORK WEEK
- OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY & HEALTH ACT (OSHA)
- 8-HOUR WORK DAY
- MILITARY LEAVE
- PROTECTIONS FOR IMMIGRANT WORKERS
- WORKERS' COMPENSATION
- UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
- WRONGFUL TERMINATION LAWS
- SEXUAL HARASSMENT LAWS
- AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)
- EMPLOYER DENTAL, LIFE, & VISION INSURANCE
- EQUAL PAY ACTS OF 1963 & 2011
- AND MORE!

AS UNION MEMBERSHIP DECREASES, MIDDLE CLASS INCOME SHRINKS

Year	Union Membership Rate (%)	Middle Class Share of National Income (%)
1967	30%	54%
TODAY	15%	42%

Credit: Center for American Progress

DO WE STILL NEED UNIONS TODAY?

WE NEED UNIONS MORE THAN EVER.

BIG CORPORATIONS AND WALL STREET BANKERS ARE DISMANTLING THE AMERICAN DREAM by outsourcing our jobs, slashing wages and eliminating retirement just to get bigger bonuses for themselves. Today, the only thing that stands in their way is **working people standing together to make sure everyone has a fair shot.**

California LABOR
www.CaliforniaLabor.org

Unions help ALL WORKERS

For additional copies of this public-affairs manual, info@calaborfed.org

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2018 @ 7:00 PM AT THE OPEIU OFFICE