OPEIU 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 34 - Issue 5 - www.opeiu537.org - September/October 2026

Jacqueline K. White-Brown
Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer



As summer draws to a close and the busy fall season begins with children returning to school, sports practices starting, and calendars filling up quickly, we hope you have had time to step away from work, spend meaningful time with family and friends, and recharge.

As we continue to navigate the challenges of today's workplace, our union remains committed to protecting the rights, interests, and livelihoods of every member. That commitment guides our work at the bargaining table, in contract enforcement, and in responding to changes that affect our members' jobs and futures.

In recent months, we have experienced both progress and challenges. We have spent significant time at the bargaining table with employers, working toward agreements that recognize the value of the work our members perform every day. While progress has been made in some areas, key issues remain at the forefront, including wages, staffing, benefits, and working conditions. We will continue negotiating to secure fair and equitable agreements for our members.

Equally important is enforcing the contracts we already have. A collective bargaining agreement is only as strong as our willingness to enforce it. When violations occur, they must be identified, challenged, and corrected. We will continue to protect bargaining unit work and address situations where work belonging to our members is assigned to non-bargaining personnel.

We are also paying close attention to the growing use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the workplace. Technology will continue to evolve, and AI will undoubtedly change how many jobs are performed. Our responsibility is to

ensure that technological advancement does not come at the expense of our members' jobs, skills, dignity, or economic security.

We must learn how to use these new tools (AI) to strengthen our work, not allow them to diminish, replace, or reduce the value of the people performing it. Technology may improve efficiency, but it cannot replace the experience, judgment, relationships, creativity, and human connection our members bring to their workplaces every day. As the workplace changes, we will continue working to ensure our members have a voice in how those changes are implemented.

As we enter the fall season, we encourage every member to remain active and connected:

- Stay informed about bargaining, workplace changes, and union updates.
- Attend union meetings whenever possible.
- Ask questions and raise concerns early.
- Communicate regularly with your union representatives.

Our strength has always come from our collective voice. The challenges facing working people will continue to evolve, but one thing remains unchanged: **When We Stand Together, We Are Stronger!**

UNION STRONG

WE'RE ONLY AS STRONG AS OUR MEMBERSHIP!



We would like to welcome the following members to OPEIU Local 537 and invite you to the General Membership meeting on **September 16, 2026**.

Naomi Dominique Esther Ellis
Jason Licari
Marissa McEachen
Sam Sullivan
Zachary Zambrano



The Officers and Staff of OPEIU Local 537 congratulate our member for her tireless service to both the Union and the Employer. We wish you all the best as you embark on a new phase of your life.

Arlene Nussbaum of the California Federation of Teachers retired after 37 years of service.

STAY CONNECTED

To ensure you continue to receive information from Local 537, including the newsletter, collective bargaining agreement, or correspondence, it is imperative that you keep us informed of any changes to your contact information and provide us with your PERSONAL email address. We ask that you please share this information with your colleagues and ask them to email Marlene Matsuda at marlene@opeiu537.org so they can start receiving it.

OPEIU 30 & 537 TRUST FUNDS

Administered by The Admin Corp

If you haven't been informed, we would like to let you know that the OPEIU 30 & 537 Health & Welfare and Retirement Funds have transitioned to your new third-party administrator, The Admin Corp. If you have any questions about your benefits, please feel free to contact them. You can visit their website at www.opeiufunds.org or see the information below.

100 Corson Street, Suite 200, Pasadena, CA 91103
Mailing: P.O. Box 660519, Arcadia, CA 91066
Telephone (323) 300-2309 or (800) 774-8606
Office Hours: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm, Monday - Friday, excluding holidays.

RATIFIED CONTRACTS

- Actors' Equity Units 1 & 2 - Wages
- IBEW Local 18
- OCCORD
- Sheet Metal Workers' Trust Fund
- Tri Counties Sheet Metal Workers JATC
- UA Local 345 Landscape & Irrigation

UPCOMING NEGOTIATIONS

- Art Directors Guild/IATSE 800
- Laborers Local 652
- Machinist District Lodge 947



- SMART Local 26
- UA Plumbers District Council 16
- Zenith American Solutions



It is with great sadness that we report the passing of John Bijelic, the husband of OPEIU Local 537 member Marlaina Bijelic of ILWU Local 13, who passed away on August 18, 2026.

We are also deeply saddened to report the passing of Lucille Rothstein on August 15, 2026. Lucille retired after 25 years of employment with United Teachers of Los Angeles and served as a member of Local 537 for 19 years.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to the families and friends.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Wednesday, September 16, 2026, at 7:00 pm
This meeting will be held on ZOOM; registration is required.
Please RSVP to Marlene at marlene@opeiu537.org

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