



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



**WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER.**

The officers and staff want to extend our heartfelt wishes for a happy, prosperous, and healthy New Year. Our thoughts and prayers are with all our members and their families who have suffered or know someone affected by the devastating, life-altering fires in Southern California.

We would like to share some valuable resources with you and remind you that OPEIU International Union is here to provide support and assistance.

If you, as a member of OPEIU, have experienced a loss due to the Southern California fires, please don't hesitate to contact our office. We are committed to coordinating efforts to provide the help and support you need during this challenging time.

Let us know how we can assist you. We Are in this Together!

## Resources and Support for LA Fires

### Helping Our Community Stay Safe and Supported

As wildfires continue to devastate Los Angeles County our thoughts are with everyone affected by this crisis. Many are facing the loss of homes, disruptions to their daily lives, and the uncertainty that comes with such a situation. We are all united in the shared pain of this moment and would like to provide available

resources to assist you.

The Labor Community Services (LCS) is ready to assist those in need with housing, utilities, food, and other additional resources please visit:

<https://thelafed.org/resource/california-wildfire-resources/>

Apply for FEMA Assistance: Individuals and families in affected areas may be eligible to receive money for essential items like food, water, baby formula, and other emergency supplies, in addition to money to help with housing needs. Once individuals have filed a claim with their insurance provider, the next step in starting their recovery process is to apply for FEMA assistance.

- [DisasterAssistance.gov](#): Easiest, fastest, and most convenient way to apply for individuals with access to the internet and powered electronic devices.
- [FEMA App](#): For mobile devices.
- FEMA Helpline: 1 (800) 621-3362.
  
- **Disaster Recovery Centers**: At these centers [located](#) in LA County, individuals and business owners can apply for federal aid and access a range of support services from local, state, and nonprofit organizations.
  
- **Housing Relief**: Impacted residents who have been forced to evacuate or displaced from their homes can find [local shelter information](#) for LA County.
  
- **Job Loss Assistance**: For individuals who lost their job due to the wildfires, [benefits](#) through the State of California are available.
  
- **LA County Recovers**: This [website](#) includes a range of resources, services, and information for residents and businesses affected by LA County wildfires.
  
- **Insurance Guidance: The California Department of Insurance has taken action to protect individuals impacted by wildfires.**
  - For tips and information on preparing and navigating insurance claims, the California Department of Insurance provides valuable [resources](#) to consumers.
  - Hotline: Residents can call for additional information at 1 (800) 927-4357.
  
- **Small Business Assistance**: [Assistance](#) is available for small businesses in need in the region, including low-interest disaster loans.
  
- **Tax Extensions and Relief : Individuals in affected areas may be eligible for extensions on filing and tax relief due to damaged or destroyed property.**
  - The IRS has announced a deadline extension for individuals and businesses affected by these wildfires until Oct. 15, 2025, to file various individual and business tax returns and make tax payments. See the [full list](#) of extensions, respective deadlines, and more disaster-related information.

IRS Disaster Hotline: 1 (866) 562-5227.

The Los Angeles Regional Food Bank is collaborating with government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and community partners to provide support during this challenging time.

- [County of Los Angeles](#) Latest emergency updates and alerts
- [Los Angeles Fire Department](#) Latest fire alerts
- [CA Department of Forestry and Fire Protection \(Cal Fire\)](#) Monitor wildfire activity
- [Caltrans Quickmap](#) Monitor updated road closures and travel advisories
- [National Weather Service](#) Updated weather conditions

### **Food Assistance and Emergency Support**

If you or someone you know is in need of food or other resources, our network of over 600 partner agencies is prepared to offer essential food assistance. To find a food pantry, please use our Find Food Pantry Locator, visit <https://211la.org/>, or call 211 for help.

### **Donations**

Food Donations: Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Drop off nonperishable food items at:

- 1734 East 41st Street, Los Angeles, CA 90058
- 2300 Pellissier Place, Industry, CA 90601

Volunteer Opportunities: Learn more at [lafoodbank.org/volunteer](http://lafoodbank.org/volunteer)

Financial Donations: Give today at [lafoodbank.org/donate](http://lafoodbank.org/donate) and help us deliver food and hope.

## **UNION STRONG**

### **WE'RE ONLY AS STRONG AS OUR MEMBERSHIP!**



We would like to welcome the following members to OPEIU Local 537 and extend an invitation to join us for our General Membership meeting January 22, 2025.

Evany Alderate  
Madison Aldo  
Blanca Arellano  
Karina Arias  
Luca de Sanctis Barton  
Socorro Yaquelin De La Cruz Torres

Karina Godinez  
Laura Harrison  
Adam Hefner  
Manuel Louis del Valle  
Maria de los Angeles Reyes Olmedo  
Dante Sanchez

## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RECOGNITION

We invite you to join us as we celebrate you via ZOOM at our General Membership Meeting on January 22, 2025.

If you have five years or more of continuous membership and would like to request to receive your pin, you can make your request on the home page of our website, [www.opeiu537.org](http://www.opeiu537.org), or by contacting Marlene Matsuda by email at [marlene@opeiu537.org](mailto:marlene@opeiu537.org).

It's important to note that service pins are only given to members who make a formal request to receive one.

"Thank you" for your continuous years of Service and Dedication.



The Officers and Staff of OPEIU Local 537 congratulate our members who served tirelessly for the Union and Employer. We wish you the best as you enter a new phase in your life.

Susan McKissack of UA Local 250 will retire on January 31, 2025,

after 41 years of service.

Marie Carolyn Lee of UAW-LETC retired after 27 years of service.

### OPEIU INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP

Each year, OPEIU International provides members and associate members to further their higher education and career goals.

The **Howard Coughlin Memorial Scholarship** is awarded each year to members or their children for undergraduate university or college education.

The **John Kelly Labor Studies Scholarship** provides assistance to members or associate members who wish to pursue undergraduate or graduate degrees in labor studies, industrial relations, social science, or a related field.

For more information about the availability and the application submission deadline, please visit the International website below.



<https://www.opeiu.org/MemberResources/UnionBenefits/OPEIU>

Union Plus Scholarship Program provides Union families with the cost of college. The application deadline is Friday, January 31, 2025.

<https://www.unionplus.org/benefits/education/union-plus-scholarships>



The Officers and Staff wish our Executive Board member Alejandra "Alex" Protilla of Los Angeles Building Trades a speedy recovery.

### **RATIFIED CONTRACTS**

- A&J Training Fund
- Art Directors Guild
- IATSE Local 122
- IBEW Local 413 - Wages
- IBEW Local 441
- Shanley, a Professional Corp.
- Sheet Metal Local 88 JATF
- SMART Local 88
- SMART Local 104
- UA Plumbers Local 525
- Union Roofers Fund

### **UPCOMING NEGOTIATIONS**

- IBEW Local 639

## **IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER** (Office Closures)



**Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday**  
Monday, January 20, 2025



**President's Day**  
Monday, February 17, 2025

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Wednesday, January 22, 2025 at 7:00 pm

The meeting will be held by ZOOM. Registration is required. Please RSVP to Marlene at [marlene@opeiu537.org](mailto:marlene@opeiu537.org) if you would like to attend.

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