



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

WE
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We are living in strange and unprecedented times. We are witnessing events in our government and society that many of us have never seen in our lifetimes. Change, uncertainty, and challenges are approaching us from all directions.

But if history has taught us anything, it is that when we stand together, we can weather any storm. Through every challenge we have faced, whether in the workplace or in the world, we have come through stronger, more united, and more determined than ever.

Now is the time to support one another, stay informed, and remain engaged. Your union is here to advocate for you, protect your rights, and ensure that our collective voice is heard.

So buckle up and hold tight. Just as we have overcome obstacles before, we will get through this together. Stay strong, stay informed, and, most importantly, stay united.

We are entering a very busy negotiation season. Between March and April, we will have 16 collective bargaining agreements open. With this in mind, please understand that we cannot negotiate an agreement without your help. Please take the time to answer our survey, emails, and calls. We need you to achieve the best agreement possible. Please make sure your voice is heard and utilized in this process. Reaching this goal is only possible when we work together.

Look forward to seeing you all soon.



Every year, March is designated Women's History Month by presidential proclamation. The month is set aside to honor women's contributions in American history.

Did You Know? Women's History Month started as Women's History Week . . . Women's History Month began as a local celebration in Santa Rosa, California. The Education Task Force of the Sonoma County (California) Commission on the Status of Women planned and executed a "Women's History Week" celebration in 1978. The organizers selected the week of March 8 to correspond with International Women's Day. The movement spread across the country as other communities initiated their own Women's History Week celebrations the following year.

In 1980, a consortium of women's groups and historians—led by the National Women's History Project (now the National Women's History Alliance)—successfully lobbied for national recognition. In February 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the first Presidential Proclamation declaring the Week of March 8th, 1980, as National Women's History Week.

To learn more about the history of Women's History Month, please visit the [Library of Congress](#).

Workers Memorial Day

Each spring, the labor movement takes time to remember and honor the courageous workers who have been injured or killed on the job. This year, Workers Memorial Day will be held Monday, April 28, with the theme, *Fight for Our Lives: Safe Jobs Now!*

Below, please find a link to the AFL-CIO's toolkit, which includes posters, digital artwork, and fliers in both English and Spanish, as well as event suggestions.

<https://aflcio.org/about-us/conferences-and-events/workers-memorial-day>

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 March 12, 2025.

Jennifer Barich
Cristina Calvillo
Arnold Esqueda
Nicholas Gamiz
Brianna Holguin-O'Brien
Daisy Mercado

Jacqueline Milmine
Raphael Munoz
Rosa Orellano
Brenden Thompson
Nathan Wong

OPEIU INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINES

The deadline to submit scholarship applications for the Howard Coughlin Memorial Scholarship and John Kelly Labor Studies Scholarship is **March 31, 2025**. To submit your application, visit opeiu.org and click on the Member Resources tab. Once there, click the Union Scholarships link to submit your application.



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.

Claudia DeSimone of American Federation of Musicians Local 325

will retire on March 31, 2025, after 35 years of service.

Jerilynn Johnston of UA Plumbers Local 230 retired on March 1, 2025, after 30 years of service.

Amber Nelson of SEIU Local 721 retired on February 11, 2025, after 18 years of service.

Negotiations for Standard Trades Union Offices

We are preparing for the upcoming negotiations for the Standard Trades Agreement. On April 1, 2025, we will email surveys and the Agreement to all

members covered under this Agreement. Please take a moment to complete your survey and return it to us by email to marlene@opeiu537.org on or before April 18, 2025. This is an essential step in ensuring your voice is heard in the preparation for negotiations. When all surveys have been received, we will reach out to you with a date for a ZOOM meeting, where we will discuss developing proposals for negotiations and selecting a negotiating committee.



RATIFIED CONTRACTS

- Los Angeles Federation of Labor
- Machinist District Lodge 725
- Operating Engineers
- San Diego Electrical Training - *Economics*

UPCOMING NEGOTIATIONS

- AFT Faculty Guild 1521
- CWA 9003/9510
Wages/Pension
- Firefighters Local 1014
- Ironworkers Local 416
- Ironworkers Local 433
- UA Plumbers Local 78
- UA Plumbers Local 484
Wage/Pension
- Warehousemen's Health & Welfare
- Warehousemen's Pension Fund
- Cement Masons Local 600
- UA Plumbers 398
- United Teachers Los Angeles

STANDARD TRADES

- *Amalgamated Local 1277*
- *AFSCME Local 36*
- *AFSCME Local 3090*
- *Brick Mason Apprenticeship & Training*
- *Bricklayers Local 4*
- *Cement Mason Local 500*
- *IBEW Local 952*
- *LA & Orange Counties Building Trades Council*
- *LA County Probation Local 685*
- *Laborers Local 585*
- *Machinist Lodge 1484*
- *Orange County Labor Federation*
- *Plasters Industry JAC*
- *Riverside/San Bernardino Construction Trades Council*



Local 537 extends our heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Marilyn Alvarado, United Firefighters Local 112 whose beloved sister passed away.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at 7:00 pm

The meeting will be held by ZOOM. Registration is required. Please RSVP to

Marlene at marlene@opeiu537.org if you would like to attend.

OPEIU Local 537 | 3229 E. Foothill Blvd. | Pasadena, CA 91107 US

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