



The Professional Pen

A Publication of Office & Professional Employees International Union, Local #537/AFL-CIO, CLC
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November/December 2011

From Jacqueline K. White-Brown

Dear Members

We have just completed attending the Annual Employees Benefits Conference. This is an educational conference that keeps us, as Trustees of OPEIU Health and Pension Funds, abreast of the new laws and forecast of the future, as well as current situations. There are over 5,000 attendees who represent union members over all the United States and Canada, and who share the same concerns as we do, such as health and welfare and pension stability. The speakers have stated that things are not as bad as we think, and that we have the ability to help to turn things back around. But we as members must understand we need to contribute to our future, along with the employer, so we can maintain the lifestyles we come to enjoy after we retire. We must learn to depend on what we know and not what we hope for our future. This starts by us taking our responsibility to be the best at our jobs, and at the jobsite, that we can be.

While we are going through what the nation describes as a depression, we should take this time to show gratitude and be humble. Many of our brothers and sisters are unemployed and others have reduced hours. The trades have reduced contracts. Companies are getting more work out of fewer workers. The holidays are upon us and this year, let's think of our jobs, healthcare, and pensions as our gifts. In their practical sense we don't think of them that way. But in light of where people desperately look to their future, they have become a valued asset, which has been taken away from many.

As the holidays are regarded as the "season of giving", please remember: give from your hearts in any way you can. So many are in need. We stand in unity and solidarity during the good times and bad.

On behalf of the Officers and Staff of OPEIU Local 537, I offer you our best wishes for a joyful, peaceful, and warm holiday season.

Union Information

We often hear from members that they are not informed on upcoming events, awards ceremonies, scholarships, dues increases, benefit information, etc. These items and more are found in "The Professional Pen" and at the General Membership Meetings.

"The Professional Pen" is your Union newsletter. Information on Local 537 is provided in this newsletter. As a member, you can also submit articles, ideas, stories, and information to be considered for inclusion in future issues. We do welcome your ideas. This is your platform and your way to communicate. If you have any stories you'd like to appear in a future issue, please go to the union website at www.opeiu537.org. From the left panel, click on Member Submissions, and from the Member Submissions page, click on the third option to submit stories.

General Membership meetings are usually held on the third Wednesday of each odd-numbered month (January, March, May, July, etc.). This is the arena to get information about the Union activities, to share good news, to come together in solidarity to keep the labor movement strong.

We invite you to participate in your Union. Please read the newsletter and attend membership meetings, and spread the word to fellow Union members.



The office of OPEIU Local 537 will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

Friday, November 11, 2011
Veterans' Day

Thursday, November 24, 2011
Thanksgiving Day

Friday, November 25, 2011
Day After Thanksgiving Day

Friday, December 23, 2011
Christmas Eve

Monday, December 26, 2011
Christmas Day

Friday, December 30, 2011
New Year's Eve

Monday, January 2, 2012
New Year's Day

The Officers and Staff of Local 537 wish you, your family, and friends, a very safe, happy, and relaxing holiday season.



Have you moved? Have you changed your phone number? Have you changed your surname? If so, please notify Local 537 of such changes, so we may keep our records up to date. Return mail has been very costly to your union. If you have internet access, you can update your information on our website.

www.opeiu537.org/changeinfo.html

Or, you may email Marlene Matsuda at marlene@opeiu537.org. Or, you can call the office at **626-577-5600**, and submit your new information.

Members' Corner



We would like to welcome the following members to OPEIU Local 537 and invite them to please come and be initiated at our next membership meeting.

Andree Cameron	Krishna Ramavat
Ashley Green	Bedilia Ramirez
Julie Inga	Virginia Shepard
Teresa J. Louis	Linda Soto
Nancy A. Lozick	Princess M. Sykes
Vanessa Miranda	Milagros V. Verzola

Ratified Contracts

Congratulations to the following bargaining units:

Benefit Programs Administration
Laborers #652

San Diego/Imperial Counties Labor Council
S.E.I.U. Local #721

Teamsters Local #995 (Wages)

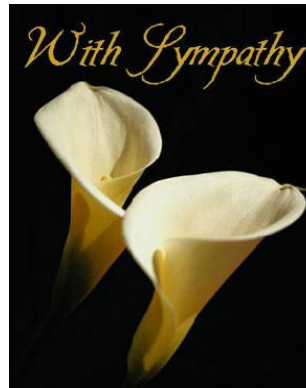
Tosdal, Smith, Steiner, & Wax (Wages)

U.A.W. - L.E.T.C.

U.N.I.T.E. - H.E.R.E. #11 (Wages)



Congratulations to **Rosa Sanchez**, who works at **Carpenters Local #409**, and who became a great grandmother on September 26, 2011. We do not have details on the little addition, but we wish new great-grandmother, and the rest of the family a lifetime filled with happiness.



It is with sadness that we report on the passing of the father of former OPEIU Local 537 President **Nancy Fees**. Please keep Nancy and her family in your thoughts and prayers.



General Membership Meeting
Wednesday, November 16, 2011
7:00 p.m.
3229 E. Foothill Blvd.
Pasadena

ChurchClipart.net

OPEIU Local 537
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Pasadena, CA 91107

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Newsletter

THE NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: November 16, 2011 at 7:00 pm.