



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



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

I'm seeing a disturbing trend of division among our units. I thought I would take a moment to remind us of our purpose and our common goals.

A bargaining unit is a group of employees represented by a labor union or other collective bargaining agent for the purpose of negotiating terms and conditions of employment. The primary goal of a bargaining unit is to provide employees with a unified voice in negotiating fair wages, benefits, working conditions, and other employment-related matters with their employer.

By forming a bargaining unit, employees gain collective bargaining power, allowing them to negotiate with management on an equal footing. This ensures that their interests are represented effectively and that decisions regarding their employment are made through a collaborative process.

Key objectives of a bargaining unit include:

1. **\*\*Collective Bargaining:\*\*** Negotiating employment terms and conditions, such as wages, benefits, hours of work, and workplace policies, through a process of collective bargaining between the bargaining unit and management.
2. **\*\*Protection of Rights:\*\*** Safeguarding the rights of employees by advocating for fair treatment, workplace safety, job security, and adherence to labor laws and regulations.
3. **\*\*Conflict Resolution:\*\*** Resolving disputes or grievances that may arise

between employees and management through established grievance procedures and collective bargaining agreements.

4. **\*\*Representation:\*\*** Providing a unified voice for employees in discussions with management, ensuring their concerns and interests are adequately addressed.

5. **\*\*Solidarity:\*\*** Fostering a sense of solidarity and unity among employees, promoting cooperation and collaboration in achieving common goals related to their employment.

Let's remember that we are not divided, but we are UNITED and STAND STRONG TOGETHER!

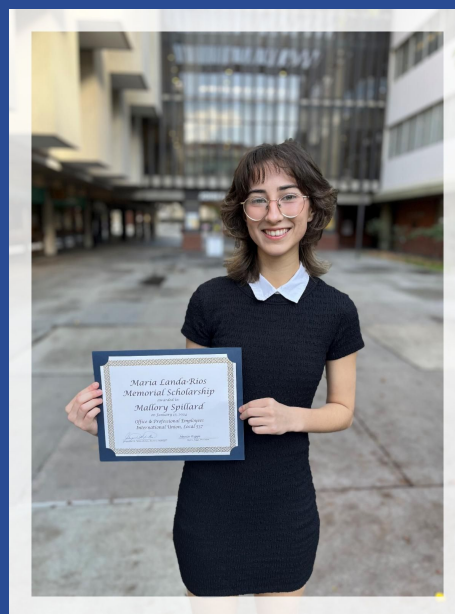
*\*\*this information comes from several different research sources.*

## SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

Congratulations to Denise K. Matsuda and Mallory Spillard who were awarded the Maria Landa-Rios Memorial Scholarship for 2024. We wish you both the best in your future endeavors.

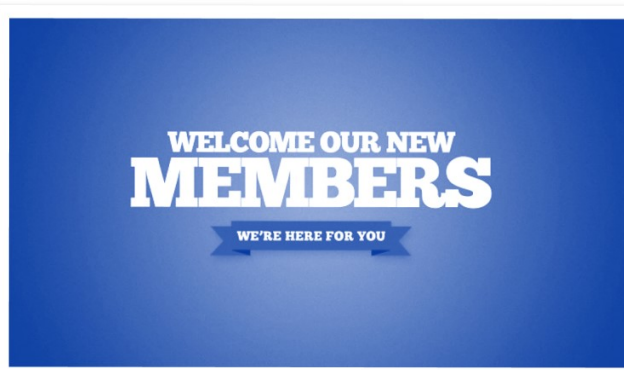


Denise Matsuda, the daughter of Scott Matsuda of AFT Staff Guild 1521A and Marlene Matsuda at OPEIU Local 537, attends California State University, Los Angeles, pursuing her Bachelor's degree in Social Work.



Mallory Spillard, daughter of Maribel Spillard, of UA Sprinkler Fitters Local 709, is currently enrolled at California State University, Los Angeles, where she is pursuing a degree in Civil Engineering.

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



We want to welcome the following members to OPEIU Local 537 and extend an invitation to join us for our General Membership meeting on March 20, 2024.

Kevin Arauz  
Nadia Arias  
Layla Cima  
Marianna Hayrapetyan  
Joseph Kim  
Alyssa Klein  
Sevitha Konda  
Elaine Kong  
Rachael Krishnan  
Taylor B Lovett  
Jeffrey Martin  
Berenice Natalie Martinez  
Herbert Martinez

Sage Michaels  
Jessica Montiel  
Derrick Moon  
Valerie Moreno  
Emily O'Donnell  
Lynette Salazar  
Kelli Takigawa  
Isaac Toledo  
Maleny Valdez  
Christen Vohs  
Tiffany Lyn Zamora  
Andy Zepeda



## MEMBERSHIP RECOGNITION AWARDS

During our Membership Meeting held on January 17, 2024, via Zoom, we recognized and honored our members for their continued years of service with Local 537. We want to thank all the members who participated in this event and joined us in honoring their fellow members.

## International Scholarship Reminder

### International Scholarship Deadlines - March 31

Howard Coughlin Memorial  
John Kelly



## UPCOMING NEGOTIATIONS

- Asbestos Joint Apprenticeship
- Cass Fire Protection
- CWA Locals 9003 and 9510
- IBEW Local 440
- Machinist District Lodge

## RATIFIED CONTRACTS

- Machinist District Lodge 947
- Musicians Local 325
- Operating Engineers - Economics
- Zenith American Solutions

725

- San Diego Building Trades
- SMART Local 170
- Teamsters Local 631 - Wages
- UA Local 484 Plumbers

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Wednesday, March 20, 2024 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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