The Officers and Staff of OPEIU Local 537 hope you had an enjoyable holiday season and wish you a prosperous New Year! 2019 was a trying time for many of us, but we are here and encouraged more than ever as 2020 plows right ahead!

As we enter into this new decade, it’s a time for reflection; to look back on our past and take an evaluation of where we are and where we would like to be in the future. For the labor movement, I feel that it is time for us to re-energize our cause. We must not forget the achievements, privileges, laws and benefits we have today came from the fights of our forefathers and foremothers; understanding all that we have in place today, came from the labor movement and unions being united. Let’s challenge ourselves to insure we make things better for our community and our future.

We invite you to celebrate with us as we recognize our brothers and sisters on their years of service with OPEIU Local 537. Our “Annual Membership Recognition Awards” takes place on January 22, 2020, at our General Membership Meeting. Members who have five or more years of continuous membership, in 5-year increments, will be recognized for their service. Light refreshments will be served.

If you would like to be recognized and receive your pin, you can make your request on the home page of the website www.opeiu537.org, or by contacting Marlene Matsuda at 626-577-5600. Service Pins are ONLY provided upon the member’s request. If you are unable to attend this month’s meeting to receive your pin, please contact our office.

The Officers and Staff would like to thank you for your continuous years of service.

"In a time of drastic change it is the learners who inherits the future.
The learned usually find themselves equipped to live in a world that no longer exists.”

Eric Hoffer

OPEIU Union Strong

Even with ploys to destroy unions, many still see the advantages and benefits of being part of a union. The employees of Inner City Law Center, a nonprofit law firm that provides free legal services to the poorest and most vulnerable residents (homeless and working-poor) of Los Angeles, fought long and hard to obtain their contract. Even when the employer tried to make being part of the union an option, instead of a requirement, the unit stood strong and said, “No!” They fought to become a union and they fought to make sure their office was a union office. They didn’t want to see their hard work thrown away. They wanted to gain for themselves what they fight for on a daily basis.

The Art Directors Guild, IATSE Local 800 bargaining unit thought their unionization would be a slam dunk. There was opposition that they never could have imagined. The battle was won, but now they are gearing up to negotiate the contract to benefit their group as a whole.

Ratified Contracts

Carpenters Southwest Administrative Corporation
Elevator Constructors Local 18
Elevator Constructors Local 18 – JATC
IATSE Local 122 (Wages)
Pacific Southwest Administrators
Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 525 (Wages)
Rother, Segall and Greenstone
Sheet Metal Workers JATC – San Diego
Southern California Pipe Trades Administrative Corporation (Economics)
New Members... We would like to welcome the following members to OPEIU Local 537 and extend an invitation to come to our next membership meeting on January 22, 2020 to be initiated.

Karla Aranda  
Michael Bixler  
Jittima Camara  
Cristhian Carrillo  
Leslie Carrillo  
Susan Del Carmen Herndanez  
Steve Flores Guzman  
Erica Green  
Evangelina Hernandez  
Neda Hesamimotlagh  
Leon Leonzio  
Sara Leyva  
Sylvia Lopez  
Lizbeth Madrid  
Patrick Magallans  
Gilda Mireles  
Andrew O’Brien  
Deanna Paz-Bouvet  
Emily Rucker  
Frank Shield  
Linda Webster

Initiated Members... At the November 20, 2019 General Membership Meeting, Marcos Avila and Daniela Mansoorian (both from Labor Management Compliance Council) took the Oath of Initiation for membership. Welcome to Local 537. We are happy to have you as our members.

Congratulations
Local 537 sends cheers and congratulations to Silvia Rangel of IBEW-NECA Administrative Corporation, on the birth of Cody James “CJ”, born November 12.

Important Dates to Remember

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr’s Birthday  
(Office Closed)  
January 20, 2020

Service Award Ceremony  
Membership Meeting  
January 22, 2020

Presidents’ Day  
(Office Closed)  
February 17, 2020

International Scholarships
Our International Union will post the 2020 scholarship applications. Please visit our website for more information on the deadlines.

With Deepest Sympathy... It is with heavy hearts that Local 537 extend our heartfelt condolences to Rosie Borzilieri, Plasterers Industry JAC, whose father passed away on December 7, 2019. Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers.