

## OPEIU Local 30 News & Views

Summer /Fall 2015

#### **SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA/** ARIZONA/COLORADO

#### **Executive Director's Report**

Walter Allen, Jr.



o say that the first f L half of this year has been a busy time for all of us at Local 30 would be a huge understatement. But the good news is that it was certainly

worth it. As a result of all the work and effort made we have settled and ratified contracts at the University of Southern California, and a number of agreements in Colorado and Arizona, and the KP National Agreement. All of these contracts included wage increases as well as benefit stability and/ or benefit improvements, all while the economy continues its slow recovery and

many workers in our communities are still struggling to keep up. I congratulate all those Local 30 members who worked hard with our Business Agents and officers to bring such great results for our members.

I would also like to appreciate our employers for their willingness to deal with us on the issues that are important to our members. While the sides do not always agree on the issues raised it will be the manner in which we discuss and eventually resolve those issues that is the mark of true success. We must always remember that the success of our employers is important to our own

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#### President's Report

Marianne Giordano



Tam always pleased to Legresent Local 30 at every level, and I am always proud of all of our accomplishments. I have never been more pleased however than I have over

these past several months as I have watched and worked with our staff and officers as they accomplished so much and did so well for the members of this union. I am of course talking about the several contracts that have been renegotiated this year including the KP National Agreement, and the affiliation of our newest members.

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## Local 30 Members Ratify New KP National Agreement

ocal 30 members employed at Kaiser Leremanente San Diego and the California Service Center (CSC) have overwhelmingly approved the National Agreement settlement reached in June. The terms of the agreement will protect current health and pension benefits, improve other benefits, and provide wage increases over the next three years.



"The Coalition's leaders simply made the point to our management colleagues that you treat your partners better than you treat others," reported Walter Allen, Executive Director and chief negotiator for Local 30. "Non-coalition unions continue to fight KP as the evil employer while Coalition unions like ours work hard to make Kaiser the best, and most affordable healthcare provider. We should be rewarded for that, and we were."

The three year agreement covers most of the economic benefits of employment in addition to the terms of the local agreement which was also ratified and extends for three years. The National agreement left unchanged the health and pension plans, secured the retiree health plan into the

future with structural changes which in California take effect in 2028, increased tuition reimbursement, dental plan coverage, life insurance benefits, and much more. The package will also increase wages by more than 10% over the term of the agreement.

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#### Vice President's Report

Cathy Young



Tam pleased to report that once again our summer  $oldsymbol{\mathsf{L}}$ event this year at the San Diego Zoo received a great response. This event brings our members and their families together in a fun and relaxed environment designed to simply enjoy each other's company and enjoy the day. If you have not joined us at one of the Local 30 events in your area you are

missing out. Watch for the next one near you.

Next up for Local 30 will be our annual Toy Drive. Once again we will be asking our members to support this effort which has earned our union recognition, by donating a new toy for children from families less fortunate than us. Toys can be for either boys or girls of any age, must be new and not gift wrapped. They can be delivered to the union's offices in all locations or picked up by the Business Agents. I ask all of our members to consider the donation of a toy and help us help others. Local 30 is the largest contributor to this cause in most of our areas and we ask you to help us do even more. Your donation will provide Holiday magic for others. What could be better than that?

I would also like to comment on the Local 30 Retirees Committee. This group of retired Local 30 members is a very important part of our union providing advice and support, and helping out in any way they can. Retirees have a wealth of knowledge gained over many years of continued on Page 5

#### Sodexo and Bear Valley Employees Choose Local 30

Food and Nutrition (FANS) and Environmental Services (EVS) workers employed by Sodexo, Inc. in San Diego have voted overwhelmingly to affiliate with Local 30. These workers were formerly represented by United Health Care Employees (UHCE), and sought to join a larger union with experience in representing workers in their positions. The vote which took place at the employee's various work locations in San Diego was supported by the members by a large margin.

Under the same terms with UHCE workers employed in various non-nursing patient care positions at Bear Valley Community Hospital have also voted to join Local 30. These members employed at the public hospital in Big Bear have for years dealt with slowing revenue and shrinking resources which have contributed to a loss of positions and difficult negotiations. Local 30 is now engaged in contract talks with their employer and looks forward to securing wage increases for the group which has not seen increases for some time.

"It is the role and the responsibility of all unions to grow and as they do it follows that they will then help other

groups to do better and to thrive", stated Local 30 Executive Director Walter Allen. "In this case Local 30 had the opportunity to provide these employees with the representation they needed to be able to realize the many benefits of the union. Now as members of Local 30 they will receive all the benefits we have as well".

These new members of Local 30 are already being included in steward training seminars and the Local 30 and OPEIU benefit programs.

New member packages are being sent out and their steward leaders are working with Local 30 Business Agents to provide these members with the same professional representation that all Local 30 members are entitled to.

Please welcome our newest members to Local 30.





#### Roller Coaster Ride

By Lolita Babaran

Wow! What a wild roller coaster ride Local 30 and our members at Kaiser Permanente have been on ever since the National contract negotiations began back in January. The ups and downs, sudden twist and turns, and bumpy roads made everyone want to get off this ride, but we couldn't. National negotiations began and no one knew how or when this ride would end. Our Kaiser Permanente members feared that they might lose benefits, lose their retirement benefits and pensions, have to pay higher copays, and even worse, forced to pay toward their health benefits.

The concerns of our members were made known to all of our Union Leaders at our many Town Hall meetings last February.

"Please try to save our benefits." "I don't mind paying higher co-pays, as long as I don't have to pay for my health insurance." "I am going to retire within the next two years. Please save our pension and our retirement benefits." These are just a few of many concerns that were brought to Local 30's attention. Listening to our members' concerns truly tugged at our heart strings, and it served as a constant reminder to fight for our Kaiser Permanente members in National Bargaining. Walter Allen, Local 30 CFO, Marianne Giordano, Local 30 President, and Annette Baxter, Director of Member Services, were all intricately involved in National Bargaining representing Local 30. They refused to give up or give in to any potential losses, and stayed focused

on what was important to our members. And thanks to them and our Coalition leaders, the Kaiser Permanente members got everything they asked for – a great National Agreement, without losses, only gains. It's great to be part of a Coalition, where we are 100,000 strong, and it is great to have Union Leaders who really care for their members.

Whew! I am so glad to be off this roller coaster ride. I am quite sure our Kaiser Permanente members feel the same way. And even though it was rocky and scary, I wouldn't mind going on this ride again, as long as I know our strong Union leaders will continue to navigate the ride. Thank you to them and congratulations to our Kaiser Permanente members.

## TOTAL HEALTH FOR ALL!

#### **Workstation Workout**

Here's a great workstation workout from kpwalk for you and your coworkers to try!

Is your average day spent in a seat? Driving, working, and evening on the couch can mean too much sedentary time. Research shows that sitting all day increases your risk for obesity and puts you at risk for back pain, poor posture, leg cramps, and tense muscles. Keep your body movingeven while at a desk- with these exercises:

- The Shoulder Squeeze. Roll your shoulders back a few times, and leave them in a down and relaxed position. Then, raise arms out to side at shoulder height, with elbows bent and hands forward. Bring both elbows back to squeeze the shoulder blades, then extend and straighten arms all the way forward. Alternate the shoulder squeeze and arm extension 10-15 times.
- The Chorus Line. Extend one leg out straight in front of you and hold for two seconds. Repeat on each leg 15 times.
- The Squat. Stand in front of your chair with your feet at hip's width apart. Lower yourself until you're almost touching your seat and hold for three seconds. Slowly sit down, then repeat 10 times.

You can improve strength and flexibility with just a few daily moves.

## Local 30 Members Ratify New KP National Agreement (continued from Page 1)



"This was my first time attending the National Bargaining process," said Mike Ramey a Local 30 Trustee/ Executive Board Member who served as an observer to National Bargaining. "I have always been grateful to those of our leaders who did this work over the years but never really knew just how much was involved. These people work day and night when the meetings are going on

and spend weeks away from home. There is little that is glamorous about it and it can be very frustrating at times but the end result is sure worth the effort. I thank our leaders for all their hard work in bringing back such a great contract."

"When I think back to the first round of National Bargaining in 2000 I remember that Local 30 was not even at the table," stated Marianne Giordano, Local 30 President and National Bargaining Committee member. "We have come a long way. Where once there was no direct involvement by our union in the process we have since become a very important part of the process and our leader Walter Allen sits at the highest levels of the decision making process on our behalf. We could not be in better hands."

"At our Town Hall meetings around the county back in February and March we saw hundreds of Local 30 members and they all had the same concerns; Don't give up our health or pension benefits, and if possible get us a pay raise," declared Annette Baxter, Director of Member Services and Bargaining Committee member. "Our members were even ready to see higher co-pays if needed to preserve the health plan paid in full by the employer. At the ratification meetings many of those members came to vote and thanked us for delivering on our promises. Nothing feels better than that!"

The new National Agreement goes into effect on October 1, 2015 and the first of the three wage increases will take effect then as well. Congratulations to all involved for their hard work and dedication to the members of Local 30.





## USC Ratifies A New 5 Year Contract

ongratulations to our Union members at University of Southern California (USC). Their contract has been recently negotiated and ratified for the next three years. Our special thanks and gratitude go towards our two Stewards at USC – Stephanie Austin and Jamie Campbell. Both stewards were key players during the contract negotiation process – helping to facilitate open lines of communication between Local 30 and Management. Both Stewards were also very integral to the success of getting their contract ratified.

Thank you, Stephanie and Jamie, for a job well done, and thank you for being great Local 30 Stewards. We could not have done this without you!

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#### **Generation Next Leaders Update**

ur Local 30's 'Generation Next' leaders have been actively involved in a variety of things this spring and summer. In March our leaders headed to Chicago to attend the OPEIU "Catch a Rising Star" conference. At the conference they were able to meet other labor leaders from around the country. Our under 40 leaders participated in the protest march to fight a raise in minimum wage. "It was a chance to be a part of the fight for higher wages", said one participant.

In May the Local 30 'Generation Next' leaders attended an event with the San Diego Leadership Alliance. This gave them the chance to meet and talk with local labor



activists in San Diego County. Also, in May members of 'Generation Next' volunteered in our organizing of Sodexo workers. They helped out by making phone calls and attending meetings to inform the employees of the benefits of working in a union job and being part of OPEIU. Those Sodexo workers are now part of Local 30 since winning the election.

In June Local 30 attended a beach clean-up sponsored by the Surfrider Foundation. "Keeping our beaches clean and beautiful is important for our city", said one of our leaders.

'Generation Next' is a council of Local 30 members age 40 and younger interested in developing leadership skills and improving and growing the union. Their participation in our union is critical to our mission and our future.

If you would like to be a part of 'Generation Next', we would love to have you. Please contact the Local 30 office at 619-640-4840 or e-mail angelajensen@ opeiulocal30.org

#### President's Report

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While these things have been discussed elsewhere in the newsletter I wanted to give our members my perspective not as the president of Local 30 but as a frontline worker and member of one of our bargaining units. I want everyone to know what really happens to make all our success

possible because otherwise we might simply say 'Thank you' and take for granted the extraordinary effort that is made by our representatives to accomplish these things.

While Local 30 provides additional benefits to our members outside of their collective bargaining, it is a known fact that the most important time for all union members is when their contracts are negotiated. Successful outcomes are achieved when your union is led by a strong leader such as ours.

Let's first start with the most recent Kaiser Permanente negotiations. During this process Walter Allen the Executive Director/ CFO has and continues to be an intricate part of the senior leadership of the Partnership. His credibility and leadership has positioned Local 30 at the top of all Partnership decisions. This has never been more evident



than in our recent 3 year agreement that was ratified in July.

Negotiating contracts requires more than meets the eye. Union work is rarely and 8 to 5 job, but when bargaining begins you never know when your day will end. This year Roger Lester, CSC Executive Board Member,

Bridgett Mitchell, Union Steward, and Mike Ramey, Trustee participated in this process for the first time. They spent four months with us as a part of our negotiating team. We traveled every 2 weeks to different hotels and locations. We flew from San Diego to San Jose and spent endless hours driving back and forth in LA traffic. They missed time with their families and special events with their children for the greater good. They witnessed the very long hours that Walter spent going from meeting to meeting during this process.

For me it was great to be able to share this experience with them all. Each of them expressed their amazement and excitement. I want to thank them all for their hard work.

While many sacrifices are made during these

times not one of us would have given up this chance to accomplish such great things for so many union members.

In Denver this year 14 contracts were renegotiated by Gayle Noon and myself under the direct supervision of Walter Allen. Mark Bailey continues to do the same for our Arizona members.

In addition to all of this bargaining our Business Agents together with Officers and Stewards affiliated 700 new members into our union. These new Local 30 members work for Sodexo Inc. at Grossmont, Memorial, and Mary Birch Hospitals in San Diego, and Bear Valley Community Hospital in Big Bear. Once again this victory was the result of our staff, officers, and stewards working as a team, and great leadership.

So why is this so important for you to know? Well, for starters it's so we don't just say 'Thank You' and take these things for granted. It's because of your support and active participation that enables Local 30 to continue to do such great work. With strong leadership from our Executive Director/CFO and our Executive Board the sky's the limit. In my eyes Local 30's success is based on what we have done for our members and how relevant we are not only for our members but the labor movement as a whole.

#### LVN Council Update

The Local 30 LVN Council enjoyed an evening at the San Diego Padres on June 27th. LVN's, family, friends, and other Local 30 members had a great time at the game. The Padres even won for us! "We had so much fun" said, cochair Jacqueline Gilbert." "We had seats in the 'all you can eat section', which made it a great deal for everyone."

On May 4th the council had a walking meeting at Lake Murray. We were able to get some exercise, discuss issues and become better acquainted with each other.

At the end of April we participated in a community clean up in North Park along with Councilman Todd Gloria, sponsored by North Park Main Street. We cleaned up the streets within a 6 block area. "It is so fun and easy, all you have to do is show up." Added Joshua, a participant's son.

The LVN Council is here to encourage, inform, involve, and prepare LVN's for roles in leadership. All Local 30 LVN's are welcome to participate. Please check the OPEIU website at opeiulocal30.org for updates or contact the office at 619-640-4840. The LVN meetings are held the 1st Monday of every month.

**Upcoming meetings are as follows:** October 5th, November 2nd, and December 7th all meeting start at 5:45pm











# Vice President's Report

## **Executive Director's Report** *continued from Page 1*

success. The better they do, the better we should do. And it will always be the role of the union to make sure that happens. Relationships matter.

In addition to all the bargaining this year we also found time to organize and affiliate new members into Local 30. It is my pleasure to welcome the Food and Nutrition Service workers and the Environmental Service workers at Sodexo, Inc. to our membership. These new members work at Sharp Hospitals and provide excellent service to the patients and visitors there. I would also like to welcome the staff of Bear Valley Community Hospital in Big Bear, California to our union as well. These healthcare workers provide excellent care to their community often under difficult circumstances. Please join me in welcoming all these new members to our great union.

While the latter half this year promises to be a bit less busy we will still have plenty to do as we settle more contracts and continue the work of growing and strengthening our union. There is still much to do as we continue to develop our Generation Next council of young leaders and support the work they are doing on behalf of Local 30. Our Nurse's Council continues to grow and take on an even broader role in service to our communities, as does our newly reformed Retiree Committee bringing the knowledge and wisdom of these members to benefit Local 30. I strongly urge all of our members to support these groups and help in any way possible to make them successful. It is after all the success of all the various parts of our union that makes Local 30 the union we are all proud to be a part of.

## Vice President's Report continued from Page 1

working and living and can provide support for their union's efforts to provide for the membership and their communities.

The Retiree Committee not only provides the opportunity for us to give back to our union but it keeps us involved and appreciated as well. We have a lot still to offer and we choose to offer it to our union. Good for our retirees, and good for Local 30.

If you are a retiree of Local 30 or you soon plan to be one please contact the union office and find out more about continuing your membership (and your Local 30 benefits) by joining the Local 30 Retirees Committee. You will be glad you did. •

#### **Get Involved!**

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#### 2015 Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament

Once again the annual fundraiser for the Local 30 Scholarship Fund was a great success. Held at the Riverwalk Golf Course on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Special thanks to all of our sponsors this year, listed on this page.

#### **Gold Sponsors**

Hiden Rott Oertle LLP Attorneys at Law

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#### **Silver Sponsors**

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Reuben H. Fleet Science Center

San Diego Air & Space Museum

San Diego Chargers

San Diego Hall of Champions

San Diego Zoo Global

The Fish Market

Warrior Custom Golf



#### Longtime Local 30 Member Retires

Monika Phillips worked for the EVS Department for 46 years where she performed her duties at the highest level while at the same time supporting her co-workers. Monika you were not only an asset to Kaiser, you were also an asset to Local 30 and your colleagues. We will all miss you, 'Rascal'.

#### Local 30 Member Retires From United Way

Istarted at the San Gabriel Valley Region of United Way over 25 years ago and was first introduced and became a member with OPEIU. It has been a pleasurable experience being represented by OPEIU at my time with United Way. I have enjoyed the benefits that were offered, and let alone the great opportunities of summer fun too from Local 30!



I started as the secretary of the Regional Associate Vice President, but also worn many hats as I worked in all the departments at the SGV Region. I was transferred to the corporate office about 5 or 6 years later and worked in the Community Investment department until a little over a year ago and was again transferred to the Resource Development department as the Data Clerk.I was very shy when I first came to UW; hard to believe! The thought of standing up in one of the meetings we had scared me to death. Never the less, it didn't take long to find I did have a voice and an opinion only because of the staff I worked with encouraged me to open up and be myself. In fact my boss at the time asked me as a joke one day "what happened to that shy person that was hired?" I told him she had left the building! Working with staff has taught me many things about myself in many areas. One thing is how I am a stronger person that is not afraid to stand up and tell people what I think is important for what matters in the community, but also in my personal life.

I would like to thank United Way for the opportunity of allowing me to work with such an amazing organization with a wonderful vision and mission and the staff that makes it all come together. Thank you United Way and OPEIU!

In Unity, Chris Rivera



From left to right: Kaili Doyle, Pediatrics, Natasha Durate, Pediatrics, Gina Gagui, Pediatrics, and Amparo Byme, Oncology.

#### Kaiser Permanente Nurse Care And Concern Awards

OPEIU Local 30 would like to congratulate the three LVN's and one MA that received the KP Nurse Care and Concern Award on July 23, 2015 at Sea World. These four employees were the top in the Nurse Care And Concern scores in San Diego.

#### John Kelly Labor Studies Recipient



I have been a member of Local 30 since 2011 when I joined Kaiser Permanente as a Service Representative. Ben Hudnall's partnership with Coastline Community College enabled me to earn by Associates degree at no-cost. I plan to complete my Bachelor's degree at Chico State University. At Kaiser, I serve as a UBT representative and Service Council Member. I am appreciative of the educational opportunities

offered by our union and value the mentorship of my managers.

Julie Cardwell

### Congratulations On Your Retirement

My name is Carol F. Brown and I was a member of Local 30 since the time USC joined Local 30. I retired from USC on August 31st. I would like to thank Local 30 for being a back-up. Just knowing that I could call on Local 30 really meant a lot to me.

Have a great day and thanks again for your support through the years.

Carol F. Brown USC Libraries

If you have a suggestion, a story, or any jobsite photos we should consider for the newsletter, please contact the Union office at (619) 640-4840 or email: info@opeiulocal30.org.

#### Staff of Local 30

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#### **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

Dear Local 30 Member:

Please be advised that the next regular General Membership Meetings are scheduled as follows:

| THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2015 |                     |                          |                    |                        |
|----------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| ARIZONA-PHOENIX            | ARIZONA-TUCSON      | COLORADO                 | LOS ANGELES        | SAN DIEGO              |
| 5:30 p.m.                  | 5:30 p.m.           | 6:30 p.m.                | 5:30 p.m.          | 5:30 p.m.              |
|                            |                     | OPEIU, Local 30          |                    |                        |
| OPEIU, Local 30            | IBEW #570           | 7510 W. Mississippi Ave. | City of Hope       | OPEIU, Local 30        |
| 3117 North 16th St.,       | 750 S. Tucson Blvd. | Lakewood, CO 80226       | Cafeteria          | 6136 Mission Gorge Rd. |
| #200                       | Tucson AZ 85716     | Meeting Hall on          | Conference Room C  | Suite 222              |
| Phoenix, AZ 85016          |                     | main level               | 1500 E. Duarte Rd. | San Diego, CA 92120    |
| (Enter from East Building  |                     | (Sheet Metal Workers #9  | Duarte, CA 91010   |                        |
| Entrance)                  |                     | Building Association)    |                    |                        |

The Local 30 Scholarship drawing will be conducted by members of the Scholarship Committee in the presence of the members.

All members of Local 30 are encouraged to attend these meetings to obtain current information on the business of the Union. Union officials and staff will be available to answer questions and provide reports, updates, and other information regarding Local 30.

I hope to see you there.

In unity,

Walter Allen, Jr.

Executive Director/CFO