

# NEWS & VIEWS

## OPEIU Local 30

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA/  
ARIZONA/COLORADO/TEXAS

### OPEIU SCHOLARSHIP WINNER FROM LOCAL 30

The OPEIU International Union was please to announce the winners of the Howard Coughlin Memorial Scholarship Awards for 2021 and among those selected was Alex Chau the son of Local 30 member Helen Chau. Helen works at Mission Trails Medical Records in the Health Information Management Services Department. Alex was obviously very pleased by the news.

"I appreciate this great opportunity given to me by OPEIU," said Alex. "I feel a great sense of joy and gratitude because this scholarship will immensely help me pursue



higher education. Thank you so much!"

"We are all very happy for Alex," declared Marianne Giordano, Executive Director/ CFO of Local 30. "These scholarships are meant to help our members' families with the high cost of further education. I urge any of our members who themselves or a family member are going to school to apply. Alex is proof that you too could be a winner."

Alex will study civil engineering at San Diego State University. ★



### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Marianne Giordano

As the summer wears on and things return to normal, we are all out more and hopefully enjoying ourselves a bit more. We do still need to take good care and continue to protect ourselves. Nothing would be worse than to have to return to the difficult times of last year. Let's be careful.

In these pages you will read

*Continued on Page 3*



### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Michael Ramey

As we return to normal, albeit somewhat adjusted for the tough times we have all endured, from my position as president of this great union I would like to personally thank some people. We have all been very grateful to our frontline healthcare workers who have kept us safe throughout this ordeal and so many other frontline workers in our stores

*Continued on Page 4*



### WHAT'S INSIDE

- 2 | • WHY DIDN'T YOU CALL THE UNION?
- 3 | • LOCAL 30 BOARD RECOGNIZES BUILDING MANAGER
- 4 | • LOCAL 30 STEWARDS AT ACI  
• ARIZONA LABOR COUNCIL ELECTS LINDA WINTERS
- 5 | • HAPPY RETIREMENT
- 6 | • WE SHOW UP!
- 7 | • LOCAL 30 STAFF MILESTONES  
• LOCAL 30 BARGAINING UPDATE  
• DON'T MISS OUT! LOCAL 30 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE
- 8 | • MEET LOCAL 30'S OFFICERS



# WHY DIDN'T YOU CALL THE UNION?

By Lolita Babaran, Business Agent

Every day at Local 30, we receive calls from our members. They call for all sorts of reasons. Some call because they have questions about their union dues; some call because they have questions about their contract; some call because they have scheduling issues; while others call about their work assignments. But regardless of the reasons why they call, the ones that always leave me scratching my head are the calls when members tell me they went into a meeting with their Managers without Union Representation. Some of these meetings have even resulted in corrective actions. What? And the very first question that comes out of my mouth when I hear this is: "Why didn't you call the Union?" And believe me, I am not alone. I have heard the other Business Agents, and even our CFO, Marianne Giordano, ask the very same question, usually the very same way – astonished. Now, if I got a dollar every time I or the other Business Agents have asked that question, I'd probably be retired... lol. But seriously, why are members hesitant to call the Union when they may be in jeopardy?

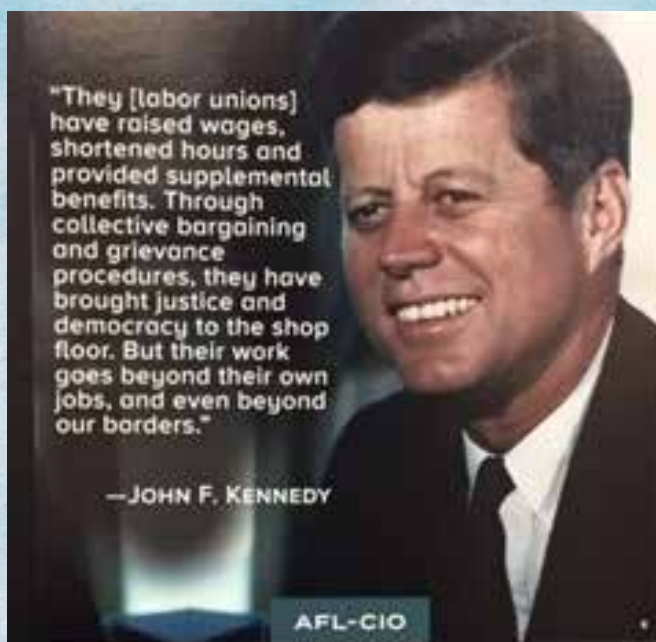
One of the most common reasons why our members fail to call the Union is because they didn't realize that going into their manager's office "just to talk" would lead to corrective action. In fact, this is what I always hear: "I didn't know I was going to get a corrective action. I thought my manager just wanted to talk."

At times, this may be the case. Often times, it isn't. I mean think about it. Most people know when a conversation starts to go south. So, here's a suggestion: If you go into a manager's office, and suddenly the hairs on the back of your neck start to stand, politely stop the meeting and ask for a Union representative. That is actually your right protected by the Weingarten US Supreme Court case. If you or the manager cannot get a hold of a Union representative, have your manager reschedule the meeting until one can be present. If your manager refuses to contact the Union or refuses to reschedule the meeting, take notes. As soon as the meeting is over, immediately contact your Union representative. Remember — always trust your instincts, and call the Union.

Another common reason we hear from our members is that "they don't want to call the Union and bother us." I implore you: PLEASE BOTHER US and CALL THE UNION. Seriously though, you are not bothering us. In fact, we want to hear from you. We would rather hear from our members before issues arise, so that we can deal with them proactively, rather than reactively. In other words, representing our members from the beginning is better for both member and Union rep. And perhaps by contacting us early, maybe, a corrective action could be avoided.

And last, but not least, here's my favorite reason: "I didn't want to sound like a whiner." Huh? How does one become a whiner if one has never called the Union? I mean it's not whining if you call the Union for contractual answers; it's not whining if you call the Union to provide us with information; and it's certainly not whining if you need or want representation. Believe me, we want our members to call us, even if it is just to vent.

I have just given you three reasons why members do not call the Union. There are plenty more, and I could go on and on and on (but I won't.) The main point I want to get across is that you are a member of Local 30. Communication is key to the strength of our Union. Now, don't get me wrong — a lot of our members do communicate, but we need more. So please, don't leave the Business Agents scratching their heads, just call. ★





## LOCAL 30 BOARD RECOGNIZES BUILDING MANAGER



Frank Atrash, second from the right.

For more than ten years now Frank Atrash, of Frank Atrash Realty, has managed the building that Local 30 calls home. The care and upkeep of the property has been Frank's responsibility since the union bought the building in 2010, which Frank brokered for us at that time. Since then, the Local 30 building has been home to a number of small businesses and has enabled many of them to flourish despite the sky-high rents in San Diego, including Local 30.

At the June meeting of the Local 30 Executive Board Frank was honored with an award and recognition for his years of service to our union. Frank graciously accepted the tribute reminding us all that both he and his wife and business partner Delalle are grateful for the opportunity.

"Frank and Walter Allen, former Executive Director are the reason we have this beautiful property today," reported Executive Director, CFO Marianne Giordano. "And we are all grateful for their foresight. In addition to our building success Frank has helped our members with home buying and obtaining mortgages through his company. Frank has been a true friend of Local 30 and we appreciate all his efforts."

Local 30 members should feel free to contact Frank with their home buying needs. Frank Atrash Realty, 619-400-6947. ★

*Continued from Page 1: Executive Director's Report*

about some retirements that have recently occurred. Annie Watson, longtime Local 30 steward, and officer has retired from City of Hope in Los Angeles. Annie has made many great contributions to our union over the years, and we wish her the best in her well-earned retirement.

Maria Serrano who has been a Local 30 employee has also retired after 33 years as Administrative Assistant for membership dues. Maria has been an important part of our work family here and we all wish her the best as she begins this next phase of her life.

And Martha Correa, longtime Kaiser LVN and Local 30 leader. Martha has served her union in many roles most recently as a Contract Specialist. As she retires, we all wish her the very best.

As union people we think a lot about retirement for our members and what it takes to ensure a good retirement when our workdays end. We focus on the benefits, the insurance, the money, but we often overlook the part where people will be free to do more of what they love; family, travel, volunteerism. It's only when those close to us actually retire that we ponder what life will be like without the alarm clock and the commute. It's important to remember that we earned this over a long period of time in service to others. So, as we wish our friends well in their retirement let's also look to that reward for ourselves at some point. A good motivator perhaps to keep working toward that goal.

Lastly, I am very happy to report that we are again planning our events for next year. After cancelling our family events and fundraisers in 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic we will once again be able to enjoy the many events that have brought us together in the past and brought additional value to membership in Local 30. Watch for the announcements to come.

I hope you all have a great and safe summer.

— In unity, Marianne

### MEMBER ONLY BENEFITS CHECKLIST

As a member of Local 30 I am entitled to (and have signed up for): **FREE** College; **FREE** ID Theft Protection; **FREE** Towing and Lockout Service; **FREE** College Scholarships and College Debt Reduction Awards; plus much more! Check out Local 30 website at [www.opeiulocal30.org](http://www.opeiulocal30.org). More value for my membership. Thank you Local 30! ★



## LOCAL 30 STEWARDS AT ACI



Steward's meeting over issues and training.

Alternate Concepts Incorporated (ACI) is the transportation company that is contracted to run the light rail service in Phoenix, Arizona. Local 30 represents the hardworking supervisors overseeing transit operations provided by ACI.

The team of unit leaders for Local 30 are chief stewards Steve DeSelms and Jim Mullins, and shop stewards Jovi Burns, Rick Hogan, and Steve TumSuden.

The group recently negotiated higher wages in a contract re-opener for 2021 and '22. The full contract expires in June 2023.

"We have a number of issues to discuss in our next round of bargaining in 2023," declared Chief Shop Steward Jim Mullins. "For now, we were simply trying to keep our wages competitive, and that's what this agreement does."

"There is always more that you want to accomplish in bargaining, but re-openers are for a specific purpose. This one was for wages. We accomplished what we set out to do," stated Chief Shop Steward Steve DeSelms.

Bargaining for their next contract will begin in early 2023. ★

## ARIZONA LABOR COUNCIL ELECTS LINDA WINTERS



Delegates to the Maricopa Area Labor Federation (MALF), the Maricopa County affiliate of the Arizona AFL-CIO, has elected Local 30 Executive Board Member Linda Winters to serve on their Board as a Trustee. Linda is a longtime Local 30 member, steward, and Board Member. She is employed by Zenith American Solutions in Phoenix.

Linda has been a proud member of the labor group representing union members throughout the greater Phoenix area for several years. She regularly attends the meetings of the MALF as well as the Arizona AFL-CIO and participates in the many labor events and causes in Arizona on behalf of Local 30.

Congratulations to Linda on her election. ★

*Continued from Page 1: President's Report*

and other places who provide so many services we all depend on. We can never thank them enough.

I would like to call out another group of dedicated people who also stayed in the game and took risks to help us all at Local 30. Our staff has been on the job since the beginning. They have worked remotely and, in the office, as well as in the field as circumstances permitted. Our Business Agents and Contract Specialists, our administrative staff and stewards all deserve our thanks for continuing to do the important work we depend on them to do without hesitation. Thank you.

Our Executive Board for their continued dedication to the work of leading our union. We have conducted our monthly meetings throughout, often by Zoom sometimes in person but every month without interruption. Despite the pandemic

these meetings were always an important part of the decision making that runs our union, pays our bills, and keeps us moving forward. Thank you.

And thank you to Annette for her dutiful approach to supporting our staff and always being there, even during Covid. And last, but by no means least, to Marianne for her 24/7 approach to keeping all the balls in the air all the time. She often kids about how easy Walter made the job look but the view from the big chair apparently changes when you are the one sitting in it. Great job Marianne and Annette. Thank you.

We have a great team of very dedicated and caring people employed by our union, and I for one, am very grateful to them for all they do everyday, especially during the extreme circumstances of the last two years. On behalf of all Local 30 members, thank you.

— Michael





## LONGTIME LOCAL 30 OFFICER **ANNIE WATSON** RETIRES

For the nearly three decades Annie Watson has worked at City of Hope in Los Angeles, and she has served her union in a variety of positions. First as a new member of Local 30 in 1992, she was elected shop steward in 1998 representing our members there. Annie was instrumental in bargaining the past seven collective bargaining agreements there serving first on the bargaining committee, then as chief steward, and chair of the committee. Annie has worked tirelessly to bring wage increases and benefit improvements to the Local 30 members working at City of Hope.

Annie was elected to the Local 30 Executive Board in 2002 and has served first as a Trustee and then the Los Angeles Board Member for the past twenty years. She was an integral part of the rebuilding of Local 30 following the Trusteeship in 2000.

For the past 16 years Annie has chaired the 'Local 30 Day At The Races' event at Santa Anita Park which she alone started for our LA members and their families. The event which was always well-attended brought Local 30 members from all over the region.

Annie has retired to Washington State to be with her children and grandchildren. We wish Annie a long and happy retirement and thank her for her many contributions to our union. ★

## LOCAL 30 WISHES **MARTHA CORREA** HAPPY RETIREMENT

Martha began her career with Kaiser Permanente in 1988 as Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) in Primary Care. Her desire to help people and make a difference in her life led her to nursing. Martha found great satisfaction in her work and as she raised her family her skills as a nurse were very helpful. Now with four children and 8 grandchildren her skills continue to pay off.

In 2015 Martha came to work for Local 30 as a Contract Specialist, a position created by the Labor Management Partnership to build capacity in the unions to better support the work of Partnership. In that position Martha found another way to help people and make a difference. Martha has been very active in her union helping with our many events and serving our members in any way she could.

Her plans now include more time with family first and foremost, volunteering at skilled nursing facilities, the Food Bank, and her church. Martha says she plans to "Enjoy life". We all wish Martha the very best, good health, and long life. ★

## **MARIA SERRANO** RETIRES AFTER 33 YEARS

She has worked under four different elected leaders of Local 30, held various clerical positions including being responsible for membership dues and receivables, and has made many important contributions to our union. Hired by Local 30 in the Los Angeles office in 1988 Maria Serrano retired after 33 years of service.

"I will always be grateful for this wonderful job at Local 30", said Maria. "I would not be able to retire now if it was not for the efforts of our unions when they fight for fair wages and benefits".

"The work our employees do to manage the many moving parts of a union this size is critical to our success," reported Marianne Giordano, Executive Director/CFO. "Maria's work over the years has certainly contributed to that success. We all wish her a long and happy retirement."

Maria's plans include more time with family and continuing her volunteer work with children and families in need through her church as well as traveling and exploring. ★



## HERE'S THE LATEST ON THE PERFORMANCE SHARING PROGRAM (PSP)

As part of our 2019 Coalition National agreement, we negotiated improvements on the attendance policies and committed to improving our own attendance as part of our Performing Sharing Program (PSP), our attendance-based PSP is triggered by a 2% attendance improvement, year over year, calculated by region. Because of the incredible sacrifices healthcare workers made during the pandemic, we fought to delay the window during the attendance portion of the PS, we now have until December 31 to hit our goal and secure our bonuses.

### HERE'S HOW WE DO IT:

**USE SICK DAYS WISELY** Using sick days only when you need them is not only the biggest factor in earning thousands of bonus dollars – it can improve your retirement health benefits AND grow the cash value of banked sick leave.

**CHECK THE DETAILS** Things like clocking in and out and tardiness may seem like small details, but they can have a big impact.

**MANAGE YOUR TIME** When possible, schedule routine appointments during off-hours or in conjunction with lunch or breaks when possible.

**KEEP TRACK OF THE STATS** Knowing how close we are to the goal makes it more likely that we will achieve it.

### DO YOUR PART!

15 Days Sick Time 2 % Reduction = **2.4 hours**





## LOCAL 30 STAFF MILESTONES



Local 30 congratulates Administrative Assistant, Kim Tyler on completing 20 years as the Union's 'voice on the phone'.



And, Administrative Assistant, Mariana Almaraz on hitting the 10 year mark performing a variety of duties in support of our members.

We thank them for their commitment to our Union and to our members. ★

## LOCAL 30 BARGAINING UPDATE

By, Annette Baxter, Dir. Member Services

As always, we have plenty of contracts being bargained by our staff. From the number of bargaining units in Local 30 to the various terms of those agreements there are always some units in talks with their employers. Here's an update of some of the bargaining going on now.

Local 30 members at the University of Southern California recently ratified their new contract, which included wage increases. Business Agents Lolita Babaran and Briggett Mitchell, with steward Jamie Campbell are confident that the settlement accomplishes the requests of the members.

We will enter negotiations for a renewal of our contract with Sodexo, Inc. for our members working at Memorial and Mary Birch hospitals in San Diego. The issues there will include wages and benefits of course but also working conditions and contract language will be on the table. Business Agent Angela Jensen will lead the bargaining committee.

Business Agents Lolita Babaran and Briggett Mitchell will also be opening bargaining with Goldschmid, Silver & Spindel PC in Los Angeles in the coming weeks.

In Arizona our members concluded a successful re-opener at Alternate Concepts, Inc. (ACI) for wage increases for the next two years. More on that can be found elsewhere in this edition of News & Views.

In Colorado Gayle Noon, Local 30 Union Representative reports that the International Association of Machinists Lodge 1885, IBEW Local 12, and Electrical Federal Credit Union have reached agreements with Local 30 for wage increases for our members, and CWA Local 7777 is expected to settle soon. Still to come this year is BeneSys.

Local 30 members in both Colorado and Arizona are pleased to finally be participants in the OPEIU National Retirement Savings Plan (NRSP). That roll over from the previous 401(k) Plan covering these members has now been completed and our members are now enjoying more investment options and lower costs for the plans they choose.

Congratulations to all on the successful bargaining for our members. ★

## DON'T MISS OUT! LOCAL 30 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE



The Walter Allen, Jr Scholarship Fund will draw the 2021 winners at the October Membership meeting on October 28th. All Local 30 members and their family members are eligible to receive either a \$1,500 scholarship award for current students OR a \$1,500 award to pay toward student loan debt. The choice is yours but the applications for both must be received at the union office by September 30, 2021.

Applications and a copy of the rules will be sent to members' homes and should be filled out and returned as soon as possible. There is no exam to take, no essay to write, just fill out the short form with the information requested and wait for October 28th. Members do not need to present to win.

Again, don't miss out. Get your application in. ★



## Staff of Local 30

Marianne Giordano	Executive Director/CFO
Annette Baxter	Director of Member Services
Lolita Babaran	Business Agent
Angela Jensen	Business Agent
Briggett Mitchell	Business Agent
Maria Perez	Executive Assistant/Office Mgr
Theresa Zallis	Office Accountant
Maria Serrano	Administrative Assistant
Kim Tyler	Administrative Assistant
Mariana Almaraz	Administrative Assistant

OFFICE & PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES  
INTERNATIONAL UNION  
Local Union No. 30  
705 West Arrow Highway, 2nd Floor  
Claremont, CA 91711-9000



NON PROFIT  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 969  
San Diego, CA

### Office & Professional Employees International Union

#### SAN DIEGO OFFICE

6136 Mission Gorge Road, Suite 214  
San Diego, CA 92120

Telephone: (619) 640-4840 • Toll Free: (866) 673-4830

Fax: (619) 640-4830

#### LOS ANGELES OFFICE

705 West Arrow Highway, Second Floor  
Claremont, CA 91711-9000

Telephone: (619) 640-4840 ext. 231

Fax: (909) 624-0549

#### ARIZONA OFFICE

3117 North 16th Street Ste. 200  
Phoenix, AZ 85016

Telephone: (866) 673-4830 • Fax: (619) 640-4830

#### COLORADO OFFICE

4704 N. Harlan St. Ste. 220  
Denver, CO 80212

Telephone: (866) 673-4830 Fax: (619) 640-4830

E-Mail: [info@opeiulocal30.org](mailto:info@opeiulocal30.org)

Web Site: [www.opeiulocal30.org](http://www.opeiulocal30.org)

Facebook: [facebook.com/OPEIULocal30](https://facebook.com/OPEIULocal30)

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](mailto:info@opeiulocal30.org).

## MEET LOCAL 30's OFFICERS

### DIANE NUNEZ



Diane has worked for Kaiser Permanente for 40 years. She is a medical assistant in Complete Care

Management. Diane has served Local 30 in a variety of positions including Workplace Safety Champion, Level 1 Ergo Screener, and co-chair of the committee for Ergonomics and Material Handling. Diane has served as a Trustee on the Local 30 Board for more than twelve years. ★

### MANUEL SANTILLAN



Manuel has been employed by Kaiser Permanente for the past 20 years, first in the Medical Records Department, and

for the past 14 years in the Supply Chain Management Department. He has been active in Local 30 in various positions over the years and currently works as a Union Partnership Representative (UPR) in the Labor Management Partnership. Manuel currently serves as a Trustee on the union's Executive Board. ★

### SORALLA ARRELLANO-MORALES



Soralla began her employment with Kaiser Permanente in the Environmental Services Department

(EVS) in 2007 as an EVS Specialist, she became a Senior in 2009. Soralla has served Local 30 on a number of committees and participates in our special events. She was elected to the Local 30 Executive Board as a Trustee in 2013. ★