

## ACI, ARIZONA RATIFIES NEW PACT

**Local 30 members employed by Alternate Concepts, Inc. have reached a new 5 year contract.**



**Bargaining Committee: Steve DeSelms, Walter Allen, Jerresa Moore, Tyra Eaglefeathers, Steven TumSuden, Benito Chavira, Rodrick Evans**



Local 30 members employed by Alternate Concepts, Inc. (ACI) have reached a new 5-year contract with the private transportation company. ACI provides light rail services for the City of Phoenix, Local 30 represents the transportation supervisors they employ.

Following months of bargaining the parties agreed to a new contract containing increases in wages, multiple benefit improvements, additional paid personal time off, and numerous language changes which enhance the prior Agreement.

"Going into these negotiations our goal was to improve our benefits package, add more time off to deal with illnesses or personal issues without using vacation time, and make the rules more fair for our members," declared steward and bargaining committee member

Tyra Eaglefeathers. "While we certainly did not get everything we wanted, this contract is light-years ahead of what we had. We still have more work to do."

Several months prior to the negotiation process, Valley Metro, the City Authority that contracts with ACI for light rail services, offered to increase wages over and above the rates bargained for in the last contract. Their intention was to make the filling of vacancies easier and attract more applicants. At the same time, the Authority, under new leadership, sought to make one job title a higher paying position in the bargaining unit as is often the case in other cities across the country. Previously all four of the job titles in the unit were paid the same rate. The decision to create the gap between the jobs faced opposition from members in the unit. The bargaining committee made a variety of proposals to

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★ ★ ★  
**ATTEND THE NEXT  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP  
MEETING JANUARY 25TH  
AT 5:30PM PT**  
★ ★ ★





## INTRODUCING OUR NEW STAFF

As a result of Lolita Barbaran's retirement and Angela Jensen's vacant position, I am pleased to announce that OPEIU Local 30 has hired three new staff to represent our members. In their new roles, they will be working to continuously improve our already existing servicing model and engagement structures.



**MARK ENGLEHART: Director of Education and Training**

Mark has been a Local 30 steward, Contract Specialist and Union Partnership Representative under the California Service Center bargaining unit for 27 years. In that time, he became an LMP Master Trainer and Lean

Six-Sigma Black Belt. Mark will bring that experience to educating and training our stewards to a new level of expertise.



**MARGIE CHAVEZ: Assistant Director of Contract Administration**

Margie comes to us as a Local 30 steward, Executive Board Member, Contract Specialist, and UPR for fifteen years starting with the KP On Call department. Margie has also represented

Local 30 on local, regional, and national committees for Workplace Safety and Workforce Planning. Margie will bring that experience to being our expert on contract enforcement.



**EZEQUIEL DIAZ: Assistant Director of Contract Negotiations**

"Ez" comes to us as a Local 30 steward under the California Service Center bargaining unit for nine years and executive board member. In his time with Local 30, he has been involved with

negotiating contracts at both the national and local levels and will bring that experience to being our expert on contract negotiations.

## REINTRODUCING OUR CURRENT STAFF



**ANNETTE BAXTER: Director of Member Services**

Annette will continue in her same capacity as director of member services. She will be instrumental in the onboarding process of the new staff by bringing her years of experience with Local 30.



**BRIGGETT MITCHELL: Business Agent**

Briggett will continue in her role as business agent, bringing her years of servicing experience to our members in units across the county.

**Join us in welcoming our new staff and building Local 30 for the future.**



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

**Marianne Giordano**

What a year! 2023 was certainly a busy year for our Union. Along with the many contracts that were bargained, grievances and arbitrations we handled, and trainings and conferences

attended, Local 30 staff, officers, and stewards can finally take a moment to look back and note their accomplishments.

Among the big headlines this past year, Local 30 leaders together with the leaders of all the Unions in the Coalition of Kaiser Permanente Unions won a historic strong agreement for all their members including market-leading wage increases and benefit improvements. The package also included language to provide safe and adequate staffing levels and to protect against the contracting out of Union jobs. Our members ratified that agreement by a margin of 99%!

However, in order to get to that agreement our Unions were pushed to the point of a strike. As a result of all the preparation and communications Local 30 managed to turn out our members in numbers never before seen. We picketed KP facilities for three days with thousands of members walking the lines, fighting for what they deserved from a company that has made





## GIVING FEELS GOOD AND DOES GOOD TOO

This Holiday Season you joined OPEIU Local 30 in a toy drive to assist the San Diego & Imperial Counties Labor Council Food and Toy Drive distribution. Each year your generous contributions help provide happy holidays for hundreds of out-of-work union families. Thank you for your continued support of another successful event.



## BOWLING FOR BACKPACKS



Arizona executive board member Linda Winters and team represented OPEIU Local 30 at the 9th Annual Bowling for Backpacks fundraiser hosted by UFCW Local 99 Women's Network. The event raised donations to provide backpacks and school supplies to members in need. ★



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**Michael Ramey**

As we begin another year together my hope is for a quieter one for sure. Last year was very hectic but accomplished a lot. But as always, there's plenty more to do. This will be an election

year, one in which we will elect a president and vice-president, Members of Congress and the Senate, as well as state-wide and local leaders. Regardless of your personal preferences and maybe because of them, the most important thing is to make sure we all vote.

In addition, we will have several contracts to negotiate and certainly there will be grievances to handle on behalf of our members. We will enjoy some events together and conduct our trainings for stewards and other leaders. We will participate in events in our communities and in support of our families and all working people.

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Happy Retirement

Thank You

## LOCAL 30 BUSINESS AGENT LOLITA BABARAN RETIRES



Longtime Business Agent Lolita Babaran has announced her retirement from Local 30, effective December 31, 2023. Lolita is the most senior member of the BA staff having served since 2003.

Over the past twenty years in the position Lolita has served the Union with professionalism and strength, always committed to the work. She has been responsible for representing many of the units in Local 30 including the California Service Center (CSC), the unit she came from prior to becoming a Business Agent. She has worked on organizing campaigns for the union, trained stewards and other frontline leaders, and mentored co-workers.

"Lolita has always been driven by a passion for righting the wrong wherever she found it," reported Annette Baxter, Director of Member Services. "Her experience and knowledge will be difficult to replace. I wish her all the best in her well-earned retirement."

"As a Local 30 member working at the CSC since 1995, Lolita showed even then that she had a passion for this kind of work," said Marianne Giordano, Executive Director/ CFO. "This job is not for everyone, it takes a certain commitment and drive. That was clear to Walter Allen, our former Executive Director, when he hired her in 2003. Now after 28 years as a member of Local 30 and the past 20 years working for the Union, Lolita finally gets to retire with honor."

Lolita plans to dedicate her time now to her animal rescue, Crossing Guardians, a charity she started to protect animals. Her commitment continues.

The officers, staff, and entire membership of Local 30 wishes her a long and healthy retirement. ★

## TWO LOCAL 30 MEMBERS RETIRE: CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR RETIREMENT

**Local 30 wishes our members a long and happy retirement full of good health and contentment.**

### GLORIA GALLO

EVS, Kaiser Permanente,  
Zion Medical Center  
Local 30 member for  
20 years



### GREG ATHIS

Dexa Tech, Radiology, Kaiser  
Permanente, La Mesa  
Local 30 member for 33 years







# *Katie Doyle, Local 30 Leader, Remembered*

Katie Doyle, Local 30 member, Kaiser employee, and longtime supporter and leader of Local 30 has passed away. Katie has served her Union as a steward, Contract Specialist, and Executive Board Member for over 37 years. Always committed to every cause the Union took up Katie played important leadership roles. Often the behind-the-scenes person always informing members of ongoing struggles, contract negotiations, and issues of importance in the communities Local 30 serves, she never shied away from the fight.

“Local 30 has lost a giant today and I have lost a dear friend,” remarked Marianne Giordano, Executive Director of Local 30. “I have known and worked closely with Katie for more than 30 years and have always appreciated her energy and commitment. Katie was a very big part of our success as a Union, and of my personal growth as well. I will miss her dearly.”

“As someone who worked closely with Katie over the Years in the Imaging Department, I can attest first-hand to her ability to get things done,” remembered Michael Ramey, President of Local 30 and a Diagnostic Medical Sonographer II at Kaiser. “Katie’s leadership at all levels, at work and in the Union, professional and personal, set

the example for us all on how to be successful. She fully understood how to engage people and then support them. She was one of a kind.”

T. Kathleen ‘Katie’ Doyle, originally from Mt. Carmel, Pennsylvania moved to San Diego, California in the eighties. Katie came to work for Kaiser Permanente in 1986 in the Imaging Department as an Ultrasound Senior with responsibilities to oversee the staff and direct the workflow.

Katie soon became a Union Steward and in 1998 was elected to the Union’s Executive Board. Following the turmoil the Union endured in the late ‘90s, Katie was deeply involved in leading the Union’s recovery. She served on the committee formed by the Trustee to rebuild Local 30 from the ground up. Her contributions to that cause made possible the turnaround that has made Local 30 the Union it is today.

Katie retired from Kaiser in 2013 and has enjoyed her dogs, gardening, and traveling throughout Europe and across the US. Always known for her exceptionally positive outlook and giant smile Katie will always be remembered as everyone’s friend. Rest In Peace Katie and many thanks from a grateful Union. ★





## UNION PROUD

*"The towing benefit that OPEIU provides is fantastic. My daughter was attending college in Tucson, AZ and I lived in Phoenix, AZ. She called me and said that her car just died on the road. I looked up the contact information for the towing benefit OPEIU provides. I called them and explained the situation and they were so helpful. A tow truck was there within the hour and towed the car to our preferred shop at no cost. They communicated with me at all times, so I knew my daughter was safe, which is the most important thing!"*

**Laura Vebber**

*Dispatcher, IBEW Local 570, Tucson, AZ*

*Continued from Page 3: President's Report*

Last year we showed how important working together is and just how much we can accomplish when we stick together. We demonstrated our commitment to one another and proved that unity is the secret to success. I suggest we continue that theme and be mindful of how important those values are.

As President of Local 30 I plan to keep reminding us of how we got here and how important it is to be ready for the next challenge, which we all know is just around the corner. There will always be members who need our help and support to get through whatever struggle they are in. Let's always remember the message of 2023; Together, we win.

Happy New Year.

Michael

*Continued from Page 2: Executive Director's Report*

enormous profits from our work caring for their patients. The agreement I am proud to report to you here is a direct result of the efforts and unity of our members. I have never been prouder of my co-workers and our members.

And, while all this was going on, we also conducted our election of officers for the coming three years. Nominations took place in July, the campaign for who the members would choose to lead them ran through August and into September, and finally the ballot count was on September 18th. And once again Local 30 members chose to re-elect their leaders. We are all very grateful for the support and confidence our members have placed in us.

As 2024 begins and we look ahead to what is on the calendar for this year, we will once again plan for success. We will continue to bargain our contracts, represent our members, and grow and strengthen our great Union, all with the support of our members.

Marianne



## MEMBER ONLY BENEFITS CHECKLIST



As a member of

Local 30 I am entitled to

(and have signed up for): **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! ★**





either eliminate or at least reduce the gap. The employer consistently resisted citing the concerns of Valley Metro. All employees received the additional wage increase and the one title received a larger one, which created the gap.

After several communications and more than one ratification the contract offer passed. These employees will all receive full retroactive wage increases back to July 1, 2023, as well as all the new and improved benefits and language in the Agreement.

"This was a difficult negotiation, one made far more so because of the change in wage rates," said Committee member Jerrisa Moore. "This was a good contract offer and would have passed much more easily

but for this change."

There are still more issues to work through for this group and those discussions will continue in the Labor Management Committee meetings. The sides will take up 10-hour shifts, training, and other issues as well.

"At the end of the day all of our members will receive more paid time off, more money for insurance premiums, increases in short term disability, more life insurance, more money for uniforms, better overtime language, and many more improvements including six months of back pay," reported Bargaining Committee member Rodrick Evans. "All of what we did are improvements and not one takeaway. We are all better off than before for sure". ★

# LABOR PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

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## Staff of Local 30

Marianne Giordano	Executive Director/CFO
Annette Baxter	Director of Member Services
Mark Englehart	Director of Education and Development
Margie Chavez	Assistant Director
Ezequiel Diaz	Assistant Director
Briggett Mitchell	Business Agent
Jamie Campbell	Organizing Director
Maria Perez	Executive Assistant/Communications Director
Theresa Zallis	Office Accountant
Kate Saengmanivone	Administrative Assistant Dues
Yoli Morales	Administrative Assistant

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### ... LET YOUR VOICES BE HEARD ...

Keep us updated on any events or news from your workplace which you want included in this newsletter to share with the whole OPEIU Local 30 community.

Send pictures and details to: [info@opeiulocal30.org](mailto:info@opeiulocal30.org)



## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS for 2024

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Upcoming Meetings for Local 30  
Held at 5:30pm PT on:

Thursday, January 25, 2024  
Thursday, April 25, 2024  
Thursday, July 25, 2024  
Thursday, October 24, 2024

## STAY CONNECTED



Sign up for Email & Text Updates  
from Local 30. Here's how:

Text "Local30" to 1 (844) 240-4114

— OR —

SCAN ME

