# NEWS& VIEWS

# **OPEIU** Local 30

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA/ ARIZONA/COLORADO

Members Attend Conference Room Events (CREs) at Kaiser Permanente Zion Hospital

ATTEND THE NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING APRIL 24TH AT 5:30PM PT

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# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR / CFO'S REPORT Marianne Giordano

2024 was a good year for Local 30. We enjoyed a number of successes including winning grievances, successfully negotiating contracts, and organizing wins all to the

benefit of our Union and our members.

Some of those wins included adding new members in our Kaiser Permanente unit at the San Marcos Medical Center having successfully bargained with KP to bring those EVS jobs, previously contracted out, into our Union. These workers will now enjoy the same wages and benefits as all Local 30 members.

We have also included new positions in our Union at KP Pulmonary Care through our ongoing internal organizing. Once again, as Union members they will enjoy benefits they previously did not have.

The KP Lab was the first to implement new language to our Agreement that simplifies the process for members to bid positions internally, a very significant change for these members.

We also reached a settlement in the KP East County meal break case which had gone on for far too long. This settlement finally rewards those employees for their patience and for standing up for what was right.

At Sodexo Sharp Memorial Hospital our members may soon reach agreement on a long-fought-for issue, a Union Shop. Previously the employer insisted on an open shop which badly weakens the Union's bargaining power. Once complete, this agreement will bring all the employees into Local 30.

And finally, Brilliant Corners, a non-profit housing agency organized by Local 30 last year, is nearing a settlement for their first contract. This group of about 250 members, mostly in Southern California, will add another diverse group to our Union.

Other newly organized groups currently in bargaining for their first Local 30 contracts include Speech and Language Development Center (SLDC), International Rescue Committee (IRC), and San Diego Pride. More to come on those new units.

Here in the office, I am pleased to announce the hiring of two new Union Representatives to enable us to provide the kind of service to our members that you expect. As we have grown in the number of units we have and the increase in the number of members we have expanding the staff was needed. Please see their introductions elsewhere in this edition.

While we continue to work to provide the very best for our members and to expand our reach, the work never ends. Watch for our next victories in coming editions of this newsletter.

In Unity, Marianne

# Happy 80th Anniversary OPEIU



In 1945 the Office Employees Union, now the Office & Professional Employees International Union (OPEIU) was founded having been chartered by the American Federation of Labor (AFL). Since then, the Union has grown to include workers of every type from administrative employees to doctors, nurses, engineers, pilots,

and on and on. Through the years OPEIU has grown and provided more and more benefits and protections for their members.

As we celebrate this milestone, we will continue to focus on organizing, growing, and gaining more and more strength to better serve our members.

**Happy Anniversary OPEIU!** 

















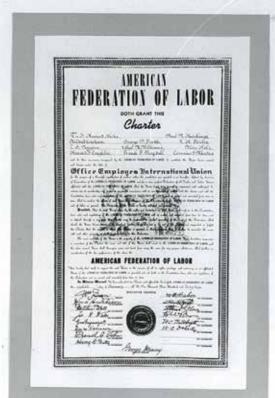








CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION











# LA WILDFIRES, HOW TO HELP AND GET HELP

The wildfires consuming homes and businesses in Los Angeles is an absolute tragedy. Too many people have lost everything in this disaster which will take months and years to recover from. Fortunately, there are also many people looking for ways to help.

Our Labor Partners are ready to provide aid and relief to Union members in Southern California impacted by the fires through a number of resources and agencies.

The Labor Community Services Los Angeles and Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO has available resources including housing assistance, help with utilities, and food. Assistance can be accessed by completing the LCS Assistance Intake Form available at https://lcs-la.org

Some of Local 30's employers are also helping their employees as well. The City of Hope has paid for accommodations for those under mandatory evacuation orders, for those in departments temporarily closed due to the fires employees continue being paid and are being helped with guidance for loss of power. Free scrubs are also being offered as needed.

Kaiser Permanente has activated a 2025 wildfire emergency assistance program to support employees impacted by the fires. Program and assistance resources include:

- Donating and requesting time-off hours. Employees may now donate accrued time off to those who need it.
- Short-term emergency grants of up to \$500
- Emergency grants of up to \$5,000 for the loss of a home
- Emergency loans of up to \$10,000 for employees awaiting other forms of emergency financial aid
- Reimbursement of accommodations

Assistance information is posted on KPSCALFYI.org.
OPEIU International Union also has a Disaster Relief
Fund to support our members as well.



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT Michael Ramey

I often use this column to thank and appreciate our Union members for the efforts they make and for their dedication to our Union and our members. I always believe that leading an

organization like ours is made so much easier because of all the hands involved in our success. From our staff to our stewards, and all of our leaders on committees and negotiating teams, we do well because of their efforts.

So as always, thank you all for everything you do every day. Also as always, there is more to do.

Our Union has always been generous with our time and resources. We have always answered the call in times of struggle and disaster. This is just such a time. Once again, the challenges before us are great. As the fires continue to burn in Los Angeles County where many Union members live and work, we are once again called upon to help.

You will read in these pages about the fires and what some of our employers are doing and what our Labor Partners are doing, but there is still more to be done. As the fires eventually end as they will, the need will continue to grow for a while. Once the disaster leaves the news and life goes on, the clean up and rebuilding will start. For many this will be a long, difficult process.

It is my hope that all of us will think about these challenges, and like me, realize this could have happened anywhere and to any of us. I urge us all to reach out and help in anyway you can. The smallest donation to any of the agencies helping people like us will not seem like much. But if we all do something it will mean a great deal to those trying to piece their lives back together.

As I always say, I am very proud to be a part of Local 30 in large part because of how we always pull together when it's needed. I think right now it's needed.

In solidarity, Mike

For assistance with or more information about any of these programs, or to make a donation to the Local 30 Helping Hands Fund please reach out to your Local 30 Union representative. \*



## AND THE WINNERS ARE...

Local 30 is proud to announce the winners of the 2024 Walter Allen Jr. Scholarship Fund awards. As always, winners are able to choose between scholarships to pay for school they are currently attending or pay down their college loans from previous years in school. Local 30 is proud to offer this support for our members and their families in our continued effort to provide even greater value to membership in our Union.

# SCHOLARSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS













LOCAL 30
CONGRATULATES
ALL OUR WINNERS
AND WISH THEM
WELL.

## QUOTES FROM THE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS:

Rachel Bui "This award means a lot to me, and I am proud to be a member of OPEIU."

Ella Klindt "I am so beyond grateful for this scholarship from the OPEIU Local 30 as it will assist me throughout my schooling at Point Loma Nazarene University. My future dream career as a mechanical engineer has become closer and closer everyday as I persist and succeed through my classes and semesters."

**Jaz Parra** "I'm immensely grateful to Local 30 for the scholarship as it helped me and my family in a time of need. Thank you so much."

# STUDENT DEBT RELIEF AWARD RECIPIENTS







APPLICATIONS FOR THE NEXT ROUND OF SCHOLARSHIPS WILL GO OUT IN JULY 2025.



# HOLIDAY FOOD © TOY DRIVE AN ANNUAL SUCCESS

The Annual Holiday Food and Toy Drive, sponsored each year by the San Diego Imperial Counties Central Labor Council and the Partnership for a Better San Diego, once again succeeded in providing aid to San Diego families in need. The annual drive, supported largely by the unions in San Diego, collects toys and food to distribute to families at the Holidays.





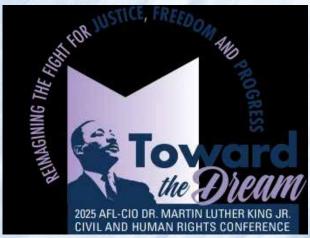


## KPAPIA CELEBRATES CHINESE NEW YEAR



The Kaiser Permanente Asian Pacific Islander Association (KPAPIA) once again hosted their annual dinner to celebrate the Chinese New Year (the year of the snake). The event held at the Golden City Restaurant on Kearny Villa Road in San Diego was attended by Local 30 members Mike Ramey, Patty Arballo, Diane Nunez, Aurie-Ann Ancho, Jeannie Shim, Denice Valle, Alfred Barrion, Maria Acero, and Joelle Naeole.

"This is always a great event that celebrates not only the New Year but KP diversity as well," reported Local 30 president Michael Ramey. "Everyone had a great time and as always, the food was great!"



#### 2025 AFL-CIO MLK CONFERENCE

The Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Human and Civil Rights Conference was held in Austin, Texas this year and as always was well attended. The event's theme this year was 'Reimagining the Fight for Justice, Freedom, and Progress Toward the Dream'.

This year's attendees from Local 30 were Tamua Newton from the City of Hope and Sylvia McKenzie from Kaiser Permanente. Both were inspired by the speakers and the break-out sessions and were pleased to represent Local 30 at the conference. ★



# 2025 OPEIU SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE NOW!

APPLY Online

DEADLINE: March 31, 2025

## **HOWARD COUGHLIN MEMORIAL**

#### **FULL-TIME SCHOLARSHIPS:**

- \$1,625.00 for each year of higher education / max value \$6,500.00 PART-TIME SCHOLARSHIPS:
- \$662.50 for each year of part-time higher education / max value of \$2,650.00

APPLICATION, RULES AND REGULATIONS:

https://form.jotform. com/243224830293049



## **JOHN KELLY LABOR STUDIES**

For OPEIU MEMBERS ONLY, dependents are NOT eligible for this scholarship.

Each scholarship has a total max value of \$3,250.00.

#### THE APPLICANT MUST BE:

A member or an associate member of OPEIU in good standing for at least 2 years; and either an undergraduate or graduate student in one of the following areas of study:

- · Labor Studies
- Industrial Relations
- Union Leadership and Administration

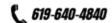
APPLICATION, RULES AND REGULATIONS:

https://form.jotform. com/243444491495161













## BLACK HISTORY AND LABOR: DEEPLY CONNECTED

**By Tamua Newton** 



Black history month is a time to honor the resilience, achievements, and contributions of Black people throughout history while reflecting on the struggles we have overcome, and the progress still needed.

It's a reminder of the importance of celebrating our culture, sharing stories, and inspiring future generations.

Black history and Labor history are deeply connected because the struggles, and contributions of Black people have been central in shaping the labor movement and the economy in the U.S. Enslaved labor built much of the nation's wealth, and after emancipation, Black workers faced exclusion from unions, systemic racism, and exploitative practices. Despite these barriers, Black leaders like A. Phillip Randolph played key roles in organizing fair wages, workplace rights and equality, including funding the brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, the first major, Black-led union. The fight for racial justice and labor rights has often intersected, driving movements for civil rights and economic equality.

Black history teaches us invaluable lessons about resilience, the pursuit of justice, and the power of community. It shows us how systemic oppression can be challenged through courage, activism, and unity, as seen in movements like the Civil Rights Movement. It underscores the importance of recognizing and addressing inequality while celebrating the contributions and achievements of those who have been marginalized. Black history also teaches that progress requires persistence and that every individual has the power to inspire change. But most importantly, it reminds us to honor diversity and strive for an equitable future.



Yesterday I learned that my aunt does not know her age. I thought she just didn't want to tell us her age. However, when she said that her dad, my grandfather, was a runaway slave, and when my grandmother gave birth to her, they couldn't register her because they had to hurry and leave before he was caught. That's why she doesn't know her age. That story inspired me to learn more about the struggles my own family went through, and even at age 53, I am encouraged to be the best Black woman that I can be just like the strong women that inspire me today like Congresswoman Jasmine Crockett, and union leaders Marianne Giordano and Annette Baxter. I am determined to have in me the fight that they have in them.

We must always learn from our history and endeavor to do better.

Black history is a powerful reminder of resilience, strength, and innovation of Black people throughout history. It challenges us to learn from the past, confront ongoing inequalities, and work toward a more just and inclusive society. Celebrating Black history isn't about reflecting on the struggles, it's about honoring those that paved the way for us. It's about amplifying our voices and ensuring that the lessons of the past resonate and inspire our future generations to learn and understand our history and what is being done to guide them toward a better future for all.



BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE carterdix@opeiulocal30.org (619) 693-0241



WELCOME NEW
BUSINESS
REPRESENTATIVES
TO LOCAL 30



BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE carlyregina@opeiulocal30.org (619) 859-0413

Carter Dix is one of the newest Business Representatives with Local 30. Originally from the Inland Empire, he got his start in political organizing in 2019 and has since worked on several campaigns, including ones for the presidency, Congress, State Senate, State Assembly, and local ballot measures. While campaigning, he was introduced to hardworking labor organizers from dozens of unions. He quickly developed a passion for championing workers and their unions. He even had the distinct pleasure of joining Local 30 members on the picket line during the Kaiser strike in October 2023. He is now a proud Local 30 union member and is grateful to be able to dedicate his time to supporting our members. Carter started with Local 30 in October and has since had the opportunity to shadow our experienced Business Representatives Briggett, Ezequiel, Margie, and Mark.

Carter presently represents our members at Brilliant Corners and Center for Policing Equity (CPE) as well as several different departments at Kaiser Permanente including DME, Emergency, Employee Health, Oncology, Pediatrics, Physical Medicine, and at non-Kaiser facilities like NASSCO and Target Clinic. Carly Regina joined OPEIU Local 30 last December as the local's newest Business Representative. Carly has previously worked for the National AFL-CIO, organized food service workers for Workers United, and organized graduate student workers with AFT. Prior to working in the labor movement, Carly spent several years in a doctoral program at the University of Pennsylvania studying organized labor. Carly received a masters degree in Political Science and left the program with the ABD (all but dissertation) designation in order to pursue work in the labor movement.

Carly will represent San Diego Kaiser Permanente
Adult Unit and Child Maternal Health Unit workers,
Food and Nutrition Services workers, Bed Placement
and Utilization workers, and Optometry and Vision
Essentials workers. Carly will also represent Sodexo
Food Service workers at Sharp Grossmont Hospital,
San Diego Pride workers, and office and clerical workers
at the IBEW Local 569.

Carly is excited to represent the local's members and believes that workers deserve a voice in the workplace, fair and equitable treatment, and to have dignity in their work. Carly is committed to standing up for the rights of Local 30 members and believes in the mission of bettering the lives of all working people.



## STAY CONNECTED



FACEBOOK.COM/ OPEIULOCAL30 Like us on Facebook



# LABOR PARTNER **SPOTLIGHT**

**Exclusive Dental Discounts for** 

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from Bright Now! Dental & ORTHODONTICS



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- Voluntary Option. No cost. No restrictions. By choosing to go to any Bright Now! Dental office, you save
- Up to 35% savings for Routine, Urgent and Specialty dentistry
- Exclusive savings on Implant cases and surgical teeth extractions
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Your Special Offers!

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#### Claudia Funderburg

Claudia.Funderburg@smilebrands.com 714.287.7614

#### Arizona & Colorado

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#### Jodi Miller

303.590.4369

Scan the QR code to find a location near you. Be sure to bring in this flyer and say you're a OPEIU 30 member to guarantee special Union discounted rates.



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# UNION STEWARDS: A STRONG VOICE FOR WORKERS By Mark Englehart







Mark Englehart, Director of Education and Development for Local 30

At Local 30, our Union Stewards are volunteer, frontline workers who have chosen to take on the extra responsibility of representing their co-workers. They bring the concerns and complaints of their peers forward and defend their rights under the contract. As the Director of Education and Development for our Union, my goal is to ensure that Local 30's stewards are the best trained, best informed, and most engaged stewards around.

In 2024, we started a new Steward Training program that is going to continue and expand in 2025. If you are a steward, keep your eyes open for emails from Local 30 asking you to sign up for more training opportunities. The sooner you sign up, the easier it will be for us to get you released to attend. If you aren't a steward but would like to be, reach out to your business agent and ask how to become part of our winning team.







#### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA/ ARIZONA/COLORADO

#### STAFF OF LOCAL 30

**Marianne Giordano** 

**Annette Baxter** 

**Mark Englehart** 

**Margie Chavez** 

**Ezequiel Diaz** 

**Briggett Mitchell** 

Jamie Campbell

**Maria Perez** 

**Carter Dix** 

**Carly Regina** 

**Theresa Zallis** 

**Yoli Morales** 

**Alfred Barrion** 

**Executive Director/CFO** 

**Director of Member Services** 

Director of Education and

Development

**Assistant Director** 

**Assistant Director** 

**Assistant Director** 

**Organizing Director** 

**Executive Assistant/ Communications Director** 

**Business Representative** 

**Business Representative** 

Office Accountant

Kate Saengmanivone Administrative Assistant Dues

**Administrative Assistant** 

**Administrative Assistant** 

#### **OFFICE & PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES** INTERNATIONAL UNION

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Facebook:

facebook.com/OPEIULocal30

Instagram: opeiu30

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP **MEETINGS for 2025**

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



## STAY CONNECTED



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

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

> > -OR-



