

A NEW MODEL FOR A NEW UNION

WHEREAS, working people across the nation are facing a difficult reality: an economy that isn't working for them, characterized by stagnant wages, cuts to health care, and systematic discrimination and inequality; and

WHEREAS, anti-union forces are conspiring to strip working people of their rights on and off the job, spending hundreds of millions of dollars per year in an organized attack on workers and their unions; and

WHEREAS, these concerted efforts to weaken unions are determined to eliminate working people's ability to negotiate a better standard of living for themselves and their families; and

WHEREAS, union membership and collective bargaining remain the most effective tool for working people to exercise their power on the job and in their communities; and

WHEREAS, when working people stand together in union, we are better able to combat these forces and to win improved wages, benefits, workplace conditions, health care for our families and better retirement protections; and

WHEREAS, working people throughout the country are demonstrating that when they come together in union and mobilize, they can effect great change on the jobsite and in their communities; and

WHEREAS, working people and strong unions must be at the center of this fight, as greater activism and engagement in their union, communities and societies is the key to meeting the challenges we face in this new economic and political reality; and

WHEREAS, surveys show a growing majority of working people have favorable opinions of the labor movement and, if given the opportunity, would want to be part of a union; and

WHEREAS, despite this evident support for unions among working people, the prospect of gaining power and rights on the job has lessened as organizing becomes less frequent; and

WHEREAS, we can no longer afford to look back or rely on old ways of operating. Now, more than ever, it's time to look squarely forward into the future and make organizing the unorganized our number one priority; and

WHEREAS, it will take bold action and a fresh and innovative approach to survive and thrive in this new climate. Making the promise of union membership real for working people can only happen with concerted planning, activity and improved execution.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that OPEIU will adopt a new model that focuses on prioritizing three main areas: organizing both internally and externally; adopting a firm commitment to increase member engagement and activism in all aspects of the union; and the encouragement and facilitation of greater collaboration among all OPEIU local unions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that OPEIU will be strategic in its execution of this new model, focusing its resources and energies squarely in its pursuit to ensure long-term success; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the work of OPEIU in all areas, including political campaigns, policy initiatives, legislative efforts, digital and data strategies, health and safety and legal defense should all be in support of our new model and mission to assist working people organize for a better life; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that OPEIU will call upon its local unions to join in this effort and adopt a strategy that fulfills these three tenants: to make organizing the top priority; to actively cultivate membership activism and engagement; and finally, to foster an environment of greater collaboration and partnership among all OPEIU local unions. Only by working cooperatively to share ideas and best practices, and when appropriate, to merge our interests, will we be able to best serve our members, build necessary strength and power at the local union level, and organize the unorganized.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED JUNE 2019