

WELCOME TO OPEIU



IT PAYS TO BELONG

OFFICE AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES
INTERNATIONAL UNION, AFL-CIO, CLC

Welcome to the Office and Professional Employees International Union, an AFL-CIO organization designed to improve the workplace for its members and the economic protection of their families.

As a member of OPEIU, you participate in the first and largest labor union in the US and Canada dedicated to professional office employees. We represent your interests and well being.



WHO WE ARE

OPEIU is located throughout the United States and Canada comprising over 100 different local organizations with members in both private and public sectors. OPEIU members work in banking, health care, insurance, universities, utilities, transportation, hotels and other fields. Positions held include accountants, security personnel, pilots, doctors, nurses, computer programmers, support staff, administrative aids. Wall Street workers, employee supervisors, independent contractors and many others.

Professionals who have not traditionally organized have sought representation by OPEIU in record numbers. The Union, as a result, now counts among its members thousands of podiatrists, dentists, chiropractors, clinical social workers, appraisers and hypnotherapists. Through the Union, these professionals have gained access to benefits and protection they would not normally be entitled to.

INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT

The International Union coordinates issues of concern to all OPEIU members and provides many support services to the locals. Delegates from the local unions meet ever three years at the international convention to elect the international officers and set new policy for the Union until the next convention.

The OPEIU executive board meets twice annually to determine policy and programs, as well as implement convention resolutions and policy statements. The International Union's officers include the president, secretary treasurer, and sixteen vice presidents.

The International Union is affiliated with the American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organization (AFL-CIO) and the Canadian Labor Congress (CLC), which represent the interests of all affiliated labor unions in congress, parliament and provincial levels.



HISTORY

The Office Employees International Union (OEIU) was chartered by the American Federation of Labor in 1945. OEIU won major strikes in 1946 and 1948 that brought representation to thousands of office workers in the Wall Street economic canyon. First the Cotton Exchange and then the New York Stock Exchange, the American Stock Exchange and individual brokers all negotiated contracts.

In 1975, ten years after the AFL merged with the CIO (Congress of Industrial Organizations), our union changed its name to the Office and Professional Employees International Union (OPEIU).

OPEIU reached a landmark of 100,000 members in the United States by 2001 and continues to grow through organizing new members around the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico.

REPRESENTATION

The OPEIU frequently assists its chartered local unions in collective bargaining, negotiations and organizing.



OPEIU attorneys represent members and local unions concerning a myriad of issues in both state and federal courts. Local unions frequently call on the OPEIU for legal advice related to contract disputes, discrimination cases and the law.

Without the Union, management can control payment, benefits and scheduling. The OPEIU ensures a contract that members vote on. OPEIU employs full-time representatives who are trained to help you with management disputes. If you face an unfair firing, demotion, harassment or denial of rights or benefits guaranteed under the contract, OPEIU is on your side.

Representatives, assisted by elected stewards, argue members cases in a grievance procedure (a workplace procedural system involving progressive steps). If the member and the Union remain unsatisfied with the results, they can take the case before a neutral arbitrator who is selected by both the Union and management. Both are legally bound to obey the arbitrator's decision.

With OPEIU, management no longer has the final say.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Contract benefits include:

- Greater Job Security
- Safety Protection
- Health Plans
- Personal Leave
- Maternity/Paternity/Adoption leave
- Discrimination Protection
- Vacation Time
- Working Conditions
- Scholarship Programs



The OPEIU provides scholarship programs and benefits such as the PerksCard. This card provides a service that retailers/corporations join to provide discounts to their customers and provides benefits that are available locally either by showing your PerksCard or by downloading a coupon from the web-site:

www.perkscard.com

Under the Union Privilege Program, the OPEIU also participates in a legal services program, term-life insurance plan, health needs service, loan program and Union family savings program. We continue to investigate other benefits we might offer in the future.

DUES

Member dues are an investment in the future. A majority of dues stay in local unions and is used to support them administratively for local collective bargaining, organizing and legal costs, as well as to assist in maintaining the day-to-day operations.

GETTING INVOLVED

You have a part in the Union. The Union is made up of members just like you. Participate in the decision making process.

- Attend local union meetings.
- Join volunteer committees.
- Vote in election and contract ratifications.
- Check out the interactive web-site and investigate any questions you have.
- If there's a problem, always contact your delegate or your representative.

The Union works for you. ***It pays to belong!***

