



## Your Voice Your Choice

OPEIU Local 39 Newsletter

### In This Issue

Happy New Year!

We hope your new year is off to a good start. There's a lot to look forward to in 2014, but before we get to that, there's a few things that need to be finished up from 2013. In this issue we wrap up the old year with good news regarding your 2013 taxes and we look forward inviting students to apply for one of several OPEIU scholarships to be awarded this year. And finally, we want you to share your opinion on how best the Union can serve its members in 2014 with a survey.

Take a look.



Dues May be Deductible  
2014 OPEIU Scholarships  
Membership Meeting Notice

### Quick Links

IRS Publication: Miscellaneous Deductions  
Employees Can Deduct Workplace Expenses  
How to Deduct Union Dues

**Dues May be Deductible from your Taxes**

We all pay Union dues in order fund our Union to work on behalf. The dues we pay go to things like paying for office staff and rent on the office, and covering the expenses associated with contract negotiations, arbitration, etc. It is a necessary business expense for those of us working in Union shops, and over the years, that money has been proven to be a great investment for Union members. Union shops have higher base pay, more frequent raises, and better working conditions. Dues are insurance against bad management.



They can also be tax deductible.

Tax law is very complex, so everyone needs [to do their own research to be sure that this applies to them](#). The IRS considers dues to be a "[un-reimbursed business expense](#)" and, therefore, can be deducted in most situations. You do need to be itemizing expenses, but most homeowners or those with high medical or child-care related expenses are most likely doing that already.

Since most companies withdraw dues automatically, while you won't find the Union dues expense listed in your W2, you should see them with a year-to-date total on your last paystub from 2013.

## 2014 OPEIU Scholarships



OPEIU offers several scholarships for students of Union members. Among them are the John Jelly Labor Studies Scholarship, the Houward Coughlin Memorial Scholarship, and the Romeo Corbeil/Gilles Beauregard Summer Camp.

The deadlines are coming up soon, at the end of March and in mid-May, so get more information if you have a child about to graduate and see if they should apply. You can find more information [here, from the OPEIU website](#).

The OPEIU Scholarships are just another great benefit for our Members and their families.

## PS - Membership Meeting Notice

**P.S. - OPEIU Local 39 Membership Meeting  
February 19, 2014 5:30P.M.**

***All union members invited and encouraged to attend.***

**437 S. Yellowstone Drive  
Vantage II Building  
2nd Floor Conference Room**

**Agenda**

- Unit Updates
- Financial Update



Quarterly membership meetings are important to the functioning of the union. They are how the membership is informed about what's happening in the various bargaining units, how the union is spending our money, and other decisions that can only be decided by the membership through voting. Remember, a union is one of the last vestiges of actual democracy in our country and everyone's participation matters.

The meetings are important. But they aren't always exciting.

That can be considered a good thing ([no one is actively shooting at union members anymore](#), or forcibly trying to prevent us from assembling) but it does make it easy to think "Well, I'll get there next time." And then next time doesn't happen, even though it's important that everyone of us participates as best we can in the functioning of the union.

Please take the following survey to help us understand what would make it more likely that you would come to a Membership meeting. It will only take a few minutes and the information you give us will be really important in helping us craft membership meetings that serve the needs of the membership.

[Local 39 Membership Meeting Survey](#)

The business of the Union is conducted by our executive board and ratified by the members. Having a voice in the way our Union operates, spends our dues (which may be tax deductible!), and assists members should be important to everyone, but people are busy and, outside of contract years, may not seem a good way of spending our time. Please take the survey at your convenience and pass it along to your Union coworkers.

We hope that the holidays just past were good to you as we settle back into the routine of work and looking forward to the next few months. Please make space to attend the next

Union membership meeting and, when tax time rolls around, remember to check into the deducting your dues. I look forward to seeing you at the meeting!

In Solidarity,

OPEIU Local 39

*Copyright OPEIU Local 39. Content written and/or edited by David O. Engelstad*