



Quarter 2 Newsletter 2018

Hello Brothers & Sisters,

A lot has happened during our first quarter in office. I wanted to take a moment to reflect back on everything that has occurred and share some of our plans for the next nine months.

On January first I took over as President and began getting all the business of the local switched over to myself with the new local's address. This process has taken some time and is very close to being completed. With each passing day, the office is getting more and more organized.

On January 8th with the help of Sue Cowart, we were able to complete the yearly LM-2 report from 2017. This mandatory function of the local was supposed to be completed by 12/31/2017.

On January 12th The Executive Board held its first quarterly executive board meeting and discussed many topics including putting together a budget and organizing our plans for 2018. The next scheduled meeting is tentatively set to take place on April 13th.

We created a new Facebook page. We created a contact list which was sent to all locations, and our website was updated. I have visited Davis Vision Latham, Syracuse Lab, the Newtown Square Lab, and Balester Optical. I have also visited 15 stores in the Central Region.

Very soon I will begin visiting more store locations. All visits will be announced on our Facebook page at [iuecwalocal81408unitedopticalworkers](https://www.facebook.com/iuecwalocal81408unitedopticalworkers), and our website at www.opticalworkers.org as they are scheduled.

There have been major changes made to the steward system. Latham had two stewards appointed. Vision Works Retail has seen a steward removal and four new stewards appointed. Syracuse lab has seen a lead steward named. Finally, Philly lab saw two steward removals and two new stewards named including a lead steward.

The Executive Board has authorized my salary, and I am proud to say that we agreed to a salary reduction of over 6 thousand dollars from the previous Presidents base salary.

The Executive Board is planning for the retail contract negotiations; the current contract expires in June. Surveys will be mailed to your homes soon. I am also planning more store visits to get ideas of what the retail members are looking for in their next contract. This is your opportunity to express your concerns. The company is finding ways to drastically cut their costs and these changes sometimes come at our expense.

Recently Vision Works members had to deal with the company deciding to eliminate the lab journeyperson traveler positions however the local was able to save most jobs and wages with as little impact as possible. We are still working on the coverage aspects of these changes.

A general membership meeting was discussed, and there are plans to hold one in August. As more details are finalized I will make sure that the members are communicated with and updated.

Finally, I am putting together a woman's committee. This committee will consist of three women from our bargaining unit. The purpose is to engage with the community and the membership to see where improvements can be made for women in the workplace.

We have a lot of outstanding issues. I have empowered the stewards to handle these issues while holding them accountable to address your issues and resolve them where possible. A number of grievances are filed with a few arbitrations cases pending. We are hopeful to get these issues resolved and have successfully resolved a few of these issues already.

I appreciate the opportunity that you have given me to lead this local, and I also speak for the board when I say we all look forward to serving you.

In Unity,
Jason Johnson,
President, IUE-CWA Local 81408 United Optical Workers