



## 2019 First Quarter Newsletter

Hello Brothers & Sisters,

First, let me start by wishing everyone a happy and safe holiday. I can't believe one year is already in the books.

With that said, I wanted to take a little time to update everyone with what has happened in the past few months, what's happening next and what's still to come in 2019.

**Steward Training:** First let me start by saying in the beginning of November with the assistance of the IUE, almost all of the stewards (new and old) received formalized steward training. This training took place in Syracuse over 4 days. They all got a chance to learn a little about labor law, learned all about the grievance process, learned what goes into an executive board meeting, learned how to mobilize our bargaining unit (inside and out) and overall learned how to better serve you. I would like to think that everyone walked away feeling better about how to serve you and understand that your union is here for you.

**Grievances:** There are multiple grievances filed over each of the bargaining units, and we will continue to work through those and give you all updates as we have them. I am very pleased to say that we have effectively gotten at least 2 members their jobs back post-termination, through the grievance process.

**Value Visions:** This week I will be traveling out to Buffalo to meet with the members of the Value Visions bargaining unit for their upcoming contract. This will give me the opportunity to find out from them what they would like to see in their upcoming contract in 2019.

**Vacation:** When I return from Buffalo. I will be taking a vacation. I went virtually 9 months taking no time off at all. It left me with a lot of time that I had to use or lose by the end of the year. As a result, I took the week of Thanksgiving off and I will be taking the last 2 weeks of December off as well. I do have some plans lined up, but some of the time will be just spent home recharging my batteries for what will be a very busy 2019. I have told the stewards, I am always available in the case of an emergency.

**Contracts:** 2019 will see us negotiating 3 contracts. As previously stated. Value Visions is up first in early January, so as soon as I come back from vacation. I will be heading back out to Buffalo to begin bargaining their next contract. We also have the Syracuse lab in the summer and Balester in the fall of 2019.

**IUE/CWA Convention:** Biannually the IUE/CWA host their biannual convention. It is required by the international that the local attend and 2019 is an election year, which makes this convention even more important. This year the convention I believe is in July in Las Vegas. The three delegates of the Union and I will be attending meetings and casting very important votes for our local at the convention.

**General Membership Meeting:** As previously stated. The GMM last August was so successful. I have begun looking into the possibility to host another GMM this year. The constitution only requires us to have one every other year, but the executive board and I did agree to a budget at the last executive board meeting to host another GMM this year if we are able to plan for one. I will let keep everyone in formed in due time if this is something we can manage in 2019.

I want to thank all of you for your continued support throughout the year. While I know not everything is perfect at the shops. I hope most of you are seeing the impacts being made by the new executive board and stewards; I look forward to a successful 2019.

In Unity  
Jason

