



2019 3rd Fiscal Quarter Newsletter

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

In the last newsletter, I spoke of the rollercoaster start that we had in 2019. Things did not change as we continue through the next quarter of the fiscal year.

Beginning in April, many of the Visionworks members attended the company's road shows where they talked about the future of the business and where it's going. I was personally able to attend 3 of the 5 road shows they hosted.

While there were many mixed feelings about the road show, one thing that was universal at each show was how understaffed each store is.

What also came out leading up to the roadshows was yet another change to the dress code. As a result the union invoked its bargaining rights and effectively bargained time before the old dress code would change, while also allowing the perks of the new dress code to take effect immediately.

A Positive note that took place in April was Visionworks announced a Pilot program for a new position called the "Telehealth Specialist". The union was able to effectively bargain this new position and our hope is that this position will grow in the future to give our members another opportunity for career advancement in the company and Union.

In May, I was informed by Versant Health that they were going to outsource all commercial work to Essilor starting in July and the only jobs that the Newtown Square Lab would be handling going forward would be the Medicaid groups. This as a result impacted 32 jobs at the lab.

In Early June the Union invoked its bargaining rights for these impacted members and we were able to successfully bargain that no head count was lost and no wages were lost as a result of this change.

While the union was not happy with the decision the company made, the union was very happy to be able to secure jobs and wages for our members.

On a sad note, in early June we officially saw the closing of the Syracuse Lab and the departure of 80+ Union members. Over 60 members stayed right until the final day.

I personally want to thank all those members for their hard work and dedication to their jobs, and the support they gave to the Union and myself. I want them to know that we will always be here for them, if there is ever anything we can do for them.

Now that I talked about what has happened over the last few months. I want to switch gears and talk about what's coming up over the next few months and the last quarter of our fiscal year.

In July The 4 delegates of the Local will be attending the IUE/CWA Biennial Convention. This will take place at the end of July in Las Vegas. Here we will be representing the members of our Local and voting on things such as the IUE President and potential changes to the international constitution and bylaws.

For those that don't know, the IUE/CWA is the International Union that we are part of. It is at this level where many of the governing laws that we follow are adopted.

In August, I will be visiting the Wilkes Barre lab and host a meeting for their bargaining unit as we begin the process to start preparing for their up and coming contract negotiations that take place later this year. Surveys were already distributed at my last visit in June.

Finally in September, the Local will host our Annual/Biennial General Membership Meeting. The call letter has already been sent out and RSVP is being accepted now.

Last year the meeting was so successful, it was decided by the executive board to host another meeting this year even though our constitution only calls for one every other year. I hope to see even more participation than last year.

It has been an extremely busy year and while this newsletter doesn't capture everything going on, it does give you some highlights of things that have happened and things yet to come.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the GMM, where even more information of what else has been going on will be shared. This will include our mobilization efforts to grow our Union, results from the "Save the N.Y Call Centers" campaign and other great things we have been working on to help our members and strengthen our Union,

In Unity
Jason

