



2022 4th Calendar Quarter Newsletter

Hello Brothers & Sisters,

First let me start by wishing everyone a happy and safe Holiday. Since the last newsletter a lot has happened and it's nice to report the positive things that are going on.

First, I am pleased to share that we secured a new 3-year contract at Balester Optical in the Beginning of October (which took effect 12/1/22). The contract was ratified at 100%. Highlights include the largest raise the facility had ever seen, with an on average of 8% increase in year one and an average of 3% increase in year two and three.

In early October, the local also conducted its annual GMM at the Saratoga Hotel and Casino. Also, in October I visited some of the Value Vision shops in Buffalo and got to meet the new owners of Value Vision.

In November, Steve Poston of Versant Health Latham and Diversity Committee Member went to the IUE-CWA Diversity Ambassadors Workshop in Greensboro NC.

Also in November, Michelle Fielding of Visionworks Framingham went to Washington DC to meet with members of Congress and staff as part of the IUE-CWA Mentee Program.

In Late November, I went to the CWA District 1 Meeting in Atlantic City NJ, where our local was talked about quite a bit, based on some exciting developments that took place while I was there and for some additional exciting news that I am working on with Visionworks (that I'm hoping I can share very soon)

However, the big news of the quarter and what had the CWA talking at the District 1 Meeting and what was shared by the IUE and the CWA all over their Facebook pages and website. **Is, I am pleased to share that the workers of Visionworks in Plymouth Meeting PA have voted to join our union.** This is a huge accomplishment by everyone involved, so let us all welcome our newest members to the local and give them a huge round of applause.

The Next steps will be to secure them a contract. It is our hope that we can get them added to the current Visionworks contract and we hope to start those talks in mid-January.

Moving into December, Ron Taylor of Versant Health NTS and Safety Committee Member went to Missouri to continue IUE-CWA Safety Training.

It is our hope that by this time next year, Ron will be a certified Trainer in CPR/AED/First-Aid, where we plan to train and certify all of our Stewards in the local and also offer it to any union member free of charge at next year's GMM if interested.

I am also pleased to share over the last couple of months, through the grievance process we were able to return 2 of our members to work that were terminated from both Versant Health NTS and Latham. We also were able to come to an agreement at Versant Health Latham that will see a change that we believe will be positive on the SOE score cards.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that at Versant Health Latham and NTS, the company and the union have agreed to add Juneteenth as a Holiday for the 2023 calendar year. In addition, the company is now offering Paid Family Leave at 100% of your salary and an increase to tuition reimbursement.

So, as you can see a lot has happened in just the last 2 ½ months and next year promises to be an even busier year than this. So, I will be going on a much-needed vacation to recharge my batteries from 12/17/22-1/2/23. To get prepared for 2023.

Highlights for next year include: Visionworks Plymouth Meeting negotiations, Versant Health NTS contract negotiations, Retail Store Visits, Quarterly Lab Visits, CWA Convention, Versant Health Latham contract negotiations, the local's annual GMM and more... (not to mention it is an election year as well).

Please remember to always contact your stewards if you are having any issues. They are equipped and trained on how to serve you and also know how to get in touch with me in the case of an emergency. **We can't help you if we're unaware of the issue.**

Again, I hope everyone has a safe and happy Holiday and I look forward to seeing everyone in 2023.

In Unity
Jason