



2023 4th Calendar Quarter News Letter

Hello Brothers & Sisters,

First let me start by saying I hope you all have a happy and safe holiday season. As we come to the end on not just this quarter but also the year and the term. I think there is a lot of things to reflect back on and celebrate.

I'll start by sharing what took place this quarter.

Back on October 8th, the Union held its annual GMM in Saratoga N.Y. Over 50 members attended from all over the bargaining units. The day included information shared to the membership, prizes, icebreaker exercise, lunch and more.

While Saratoga has been a great venue for our local over the last 6 years, as that is where over 1/3 of the membership reside and is a central location to the entire local. As we move forward, it is my intent to start rotating the GMM annually to give more people the opportunity to attend.

Many people who attend the GMM, walk away having a better understand of just what the local has been doing, feel a greater sense of unity with their fellow Brothers & Sisters, learn in greater detail what we have been spending your money on and often overall just have a great time.

Also, On October we successfully bargaining a new three-year contract at the Davis Vision, Information and Technology Center. Highlights include an increase to the internet stipend. Wages increases of 9%+ over 3 years and returning those increase to October (instead of April). Also, A new non-call center incentive and a change to the call center incentive. Finally, a change to the discipline process that will now go down two separate paths.

Back on November 1st and 2nd the Local partnered with the company at Davis Vision NTS to hold the first ever Management and Members training, conducted by the IUE.

Also in November, the local conducted Steward Training where 18 of your Stewards received 2 days of intense training so that they can better serve you. As I see the grievances coming through, it's a testament to just how important giving your stewards continued training really is, and is something that I will continue to do.

I am also in the process of getting the yearly LM-2 and 990's done so that they will again be done in time for the 6th year in a row.

Finally, an "intent to bargain" letter with an information request and surveys were sent to the Value Visions bargaining unit around 12/4 in preparation for their upcoming contract negotiations.

As I reflect back on all we have achieved in 2023 the list is really quite astonishing, that list includes:

1. **Davis Vision, NTS 3-year contract.**
2. **Visionworks Plymouth Meeting 1st contract (2 years.)**
3. **Davis Vision, Troy 3-year contract.**
4. **Visited all 125 locations for the third time.**
5. **Midterm wage increase for over 70 workers at Visionworks.**
6. **GMM.**
7. **Steward Training.**
8. **CWA Retirees Discount plan through Visionworks.**
9. **First time ever Management and Members Training conducted by the IUE at Davis Vision NTS.**

Last but not least 2024 starts a new term for the executive board and I am proud to announce the following have been elected to serve for the next term starting 1/1/24

President/Delegate: Jason Johnson, Re-Elected
Vice President/Delegate: Jason Dornford, Re-Elected
Financial Secretary/Treasurer/Delegate: Charles Brein, Re-Elected
Recording Secretary/Delegate Gunnar Lenihan, Elected
Trustees:
Jose Taveras, Re-Elected
Kim Idzinski, Elected
Michelle Fielding, Elected

As you can see this has been a very busy year and through all of this, I have only been able to take 1 week of vacation this year. So as the year winds down. I will be taking a much-needed vacation from 12/16-12/31. Remember that if any issues arise to contact your stewards. They are equipped to help you and know how to get in touch with me in the case of an emergency.

It has been an honor to serve this local over the last 6 years and I look forward to serving you all another 3 years.

In Unity
Jason

