



2024 Second Calendar Quarter Newsletter

Hello Brothers & Sisters,

It is once again time for your quarterly newsletter and inform you of everything going on within the local.

First and most important, I am pleased to share we have reached a tentative agreement with EVC on a new 3-year contract. A first of its kind zoom meeting was held Thursday June 13th to go over in person the terms of the new contract. Changes and ballots were mailed in late June and we will count the ballots at some point in mid-July.

While every contract negotiation is different, negotiations is not always just about what we got, but sometimes what we preserved as well, and that proved to be the case in this contract negotiations, as the company wanted to eliminate the 35 guarantee hours, add additional weeks of black out and double the distance one would have to travel if getting temporary transferred.

We were able to mitigate those negative changes to an absolute minimum, while also secure fair wages increase. Which is why your negotiating committee has endorsed this contract and we are asking for the EVC bargaining unit to vote YES on this contract and we hope most of you are satisfied with this contract.

Highlights include large increases to the minimums (including enhanced increases for apprentices that become licensed), at least 9% wage increase over 3 years, language to provide accessories for I-pads, annual increase to your 401k contributions and finally, combining the CS/OA/Telehealth role to insure everyone gets the exam goal incentive.

There were even a few items that are not part of the contract that we also worked on, like eliminating the Optos goal and making the exam goal more lucrative, and getting blue light lens as part of the vision benefit, EFFECTIVE NOW.

In May your Women's Committee Chairperson, Carmel O'Hanlon of EVC attended the IUE National Women's Program in Chicago Illinois, she has since already hosted a charity event at her local Stop & Shop.

Also in May, Diversity Committee members, Jose Taveras and Steven Poston attended Diversity Day at Brighter Choice Charter School.

In June, myself and 3 members of your Executive Board, Jose Taveras, Kim Idzinski and Michelle Fielding attended the Biannual IUE Divisional meeting in Orlando Florida

Also in June, myself and your Political Action Committee Chairperson Jason Dornford attended the CWA Presidents Meeting and Political Conference in Washington DC.

Finally, I have hosted a quarterly membership Zoom meeting back on May 12th, virtually visited the Troy Call Center on June 11th and visited the two labs in PA, May 21st/22nd.

Steward News

It is with mixed emotion to share that EVC Shop Steward Dave Buchholz has retired with the company. His years of service to both the Company and the Union is unmatched and his service to the Union serving on the Executive Board, as a Steward and many other roles will be sadly missed. I will be looking to backfill the position in the Rochester area in the coming months.

That said.....I have inside information that while Dave may be retiring from EVC, he may be taking his services elsewhere, which will includes staying in our Union and possibly even one day becoming a Steward for that bargaining unit, so stay tuned....

It is with great joy that I share that Denise Drake of the Davis Vision Troy location has accepted the position of Shop Steward and she is currently in the role now and learning the ropes of the job. We are very excited to have her in this role and look forward to her growth.

Next Quarter

The first six months of this year may have been the busiest six months I have served since taking office, so it's a bit of a relief to say the next quarter comes with just a little bit of relief.

I do still have planned a Quarterly Executive Board meeting in July. PA lab visits along with a Quarterly Virtual Visit with Davis Vision Troy and a quarterly Zoom membership meeting in September and we do have to count the EVC contract ballots in July, but my schedule does finally appear settle down for a bit for some much-needed relief. I may even try to squeeze in some vacation time during this period.

GMM

Last but not least, the annual (in Person) GMM is coming. It is scheduled for Sunday October 20th in Riverhead, N.Y at the Long Island Aquarium. The day will be filled with our meeting, lunch and admission to the aquarium. There will also be giveaways and prizes. I am in the process of finalizing the day now and a call letter to RSVP will be going out around mid-August. So please save the date.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you there and I am hoping for great attendance out of our Long Island members. For those of you outside that area and also want to attend, the union has set aside a budget to help out with some of that cost to travel, those details will be explained in the call letter, so keep your eyes peeled for that.

It goes without saying that serving this union is a great honor. I know things at the units are not always perfect, but I hope it shows anything that is within our power we do fight for and is reflected in the results and remember if you ever need anything or something seems off, please remember to contact your Stewards.

In Unity
Jason