



2026 First Calendar Quarter Newsletter

Hello Brothers & Sisters,

I hope everyone had a Happy New Year. This quarter I don't have a lot to report on because my focus has mainly been on the NTS contract Negotiations, but let me take some time to tell you all that is going on and what to expect in the next quarter.

NTS Negotiations

First, let me update everyone on the NTS Contract Negotiations. Surveys were passed out in early January; I meet with the members on February 11th and we began contract negotiations on February 25th. So far, we have had 6 sessions and we're still pretty far apart. We get back together with the company in early April. Negotiations have been very tough so we need everyone from NTS to do their part by wearing red on Wednesday's.

Store Visits and Meetings

Starting the end of March, I will begin visiting the retail locations, visiting a different region every month, with plans to visit every location by September, starting with the Eastern Region in March.

During this quarter, we also held an Executive board meeting back on February 20th, a zoom membership meeting on March 18th, I visited the Pa labs in February and held a virtual visit with the Albany Call Center on March 11th.

Leadership Changes

Recently we had some changes to our leadership due to retirements, and folks stepping down.

It is with bittersweetness that I share Chuck Brein has decided to retire after a long successful career. I will be forever in dept for everything he has done for the local over the years. As a result, Chuck is stepping down as the Treasurer/Financial Secretary & Lead Steward for Visionworks.

Monet Gugino is leaving the company at Park Sher and as a result has stepped down as a Steward.

Additionally, Dave Buchholz, due to his ongoing medical issues has retired and as a result as stepped down as Lead Steward of Park Sher. I wish Dave the very best in his recovery and deserving retirement. He will be missed and I thank him for all he has done for the Local.

Finally, Conniebeth Myers has decided to step down from her roll of Sargent-of-Arms, to allow new people the opportunity to serve on the Executive Board. Connie will continue to serve the Local as the Chairperson of the Election Committee and we are thankful for all the roles she has taken on, over the years.

Because of all these moving parts we have had to play a little game of musical chairs and backfill vacancies. So, I am pleased to announce some of those changes below.

First, let me start by welcoming Kim Maynard as a new Steward to cover the vacancy we had for Visionworks in Rhode Island. Kim comes with some experience as she use to be a Steward for the Local many years ago and we look forward to her being part of the team.

Effective 2/21/26 Kim Idzinski was appointed as Treasurer/financial Secretary to finish the remainder of the term and has stepped down from her role of Recording Secretary.

Effective 2/21/26 Michelle fielding was appointed as Recording Secretary to finish the remainder of the term and has stepped down from her role of Trustee.

Effective 2/21/26 Denise Drake was appointed as Trustee to finish the remainder of the term

Jason Dornford is going to assist at Park Sher until a new Steward can be identified.

Finally, I will fill the vacancy in the Sargent-of-Arms position at a later date.

Let us congratulate everyone in their new roles and wish those that retired a Happy Retirement!

Next Quarter

As we look to the next quarter, my schedule starts getting very full. The next 7 months might be some of the busiest months I will ever serve as President, so I will be asking all the Stewards and Executive Board members to step up and assist even more as there are months where I am only home for 1 week in the month.

In April, I will be traveling back to NTS to continue to bargain a new contract. I also will be Traveling to Dayton OH to IUE Headquarters to complete the training of my mentee and see him graduate. Finally, I will be visiting the retail locations of the Central Region coupled with a Labor Management Meeting with Visionworks. (where the number 1 topic of discussion for us will be staffing)

In May, I will be traveling to the retail store in Westchester/NYC/LI, I will also be visiting the PA labs for their regular quarterly Visit.

In June, I will be Traveling with VP Jason Dornford to Washington DC to go the CWA Presidents Meeting and Legislative Conference. I also have an Executive Board Meeting, Albany Call Center Virtue Visits and a Zoom Membership Meeting planned during the month. Finally, I will be visiting the retail locations in NH/MA/RI.

As you can see the there are many moving parts to keep this local functioning and there is no rest for the wary. But serving this Local is something that I am proud to do each and every day. I am thankful to all those that have stepped up and took leadership roles and handle the day-to-day functions, while I handle the bigger issues, and I am thankful for all the members that are the eyes and ears at the shop levels and give us your support each day. It takes all of us to have a Union as strong as ours.

In Unity
Jason