



## **IBEW LOCAL 30**

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers AFL-CIO-CFL

August 24, 2020

Good Morning Sisters and Brothers,

It has been a couple of weeks since you've heard from me, so I wanted to take a moment to send you an update. Before I get into the particulars of IBEW Local Union 30, it is important to note that August 18th marked the 100th Anniversary of the Ratification of the 19th Amendment which granted women the right to vote. While millions of women casted their first vote in the Presidential Election of 1920, it was not the first time women were able to cast their vote. It is a little known fact that here, right here in our State of New Jersey, women had been granted the right to vote in the Constitution of 1776 so long as they owned land. Women, and in fact, any land owner regardless of color, sex, or citizenship was able to vote from then until 1807, when the legislature passed an act limiting voting to free white male landowners. The change was also codified in the revised New Jersey Constitution of 1844. From the 1840's until the passage and ratification of the 19th Amendment, New Jersey was at the epicenter of the Women's Suffrage Movement. It is on this, the 100th Anniversary of this historic action, that we take a moment to reflect not just on how far we have all come, but the struggle it took to get here. The demand for rights where there were none in many ways is something all of us as Managers can identify with, and this begins the IBEW Local Union 30 update.

Before I get into our Negotiations Update, I wanted to let you know the migration from New Jersey Direct 15 to New Jersey Direct (New Jersey Direct 2019 for our newer members) is slated to happen on 08-29-20. This action will only impact members who are currently enrolled in New Jersey Direct 15, and is

consistent with the terms of the agreement we ratified in January. If you are not currently in New Jersey Direct 15, this change will not impact you! If you want to keep your non-New Jersey Direct plan, you can. If you want to change over, you will have the chance to change your health insurance during open enrollment in October. Since some of you are hearing about this for the first time by reading this update, we are also sending the announcement we received from the Governor's Office on Employee Relations (GOER) on 08-20-20. Click [here](#) to read the SHBP announcement.

As far as this being done on short notice, the first I knew about this action happened on the evening of 08-19. One of our members texted me to let me know their child received a memo about the change in benefits that afternoon. I reached out to GOER first thing on 08-20 and was told that even they had no idea it was coming. See them not knowing! Look, I was born at night, but I was not born last night. Regardless, I would have liked to have had the news earlier so that Local 30 could get ahead of it and provide information to you. After all, this is the change we agreed to in January and with its arrival will come a significant savings to our members with NJ Direct 15. Just as I had indicated in my last update concerning pay issues, and especially Special Project Rates, if you have questions about your Health Benefit changes please start with Human Resources folks first. It isn't that we don't want to help you, but often they can communicate answers to you much faster than they will communicate them to us.

With that said, our negotiations remain ongoing. This Union continues to communicate our past and current sacrifices especially in terms of our contributions under Public Law 78 as well as with the tasks we are assigned to perform every single day. At some point, though, there will be something for us to bring to you for a vote. The Executive Board discussed the mechanics of how we'll vote, and it will most likely be by mail. So, when we have something for you to vote upon, there will be a series of "meetings" either tele or limited in person, as well as an information packet which will accompany your ballot. We will be sure to provide you with information about whatever the proposal might be, as well as the time to answer your questions and address your concerns. If you've ever been to a contract ratification session you know that we are serious about making sure that you have all of the facts so that you'll be able to make

an informed decision. Once you have all the information, you'll be able to cast your ballot and the measure will either be ratified or voted down. We are doing everything we can to get a measure that can be ratified. But, if it doesn't work out that way, we'll go back to the table as many times as it takes to get the best deal we can get. This Union is not in the tank for any one person or any one party, but instead stands in support of those who support us. While I want to see us help this administration with its current woes, it cannot come with the price of us screwing ourselves.

While many of you have continued to ask, I still will not guess as to a potential timetable. You have my assurance that as soon as we have the details of a tentative deal, you will be notified at once! Until then, expect to continue to receive these updates as the feedback from you has been overwhelmingly positive. Given the long hours I have been working during this pandemic it has been hard carving out the time to write these messages, but your enthusiasm, encouragement, and support for me and for the Bargaining Committee, has really spurred me to make the time. I appreciate your continued support! It really does convince the Bargaining Team that what we are doing matters, even more than we think. So keep those cards and letters coming, we love hearing from you!

Stay Safe, Stay Well, and Stay Tuned!

**Al**

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***Need to update your email or home address? Let us know by sending your change of address to Lisa Ginther at [info@ibewlocal30.org](mailto:info@ibewlocal30.org) - Thank you!***