



IBEW LOCAL 30

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers AFL-CIO-CFL

September 18, 2020

Good Afternoon Sisters and Brothers,

I would like to begin this update with a bit of good news! As of today's pay, many of us will notice an increase in our take home pay. This increase is a direct result of the migration from NJ Direct15 to NJ Direct per the agreement ratified by the membership back on 01-30-20. In regards to this increase, you will notice that while your net pay went up, so did your Income Taxes and FICA contributions. The increase in these deductions occurred because of the nature of the monies we pay for health care as any monies deducted for health insurance comes from Pre-Tax dollars. Thus, the savings in premium took part of your pay from the Pre-Tax column and put it in the Taxable Income column which caused a slight increase in taxes as mentioned above. If you were enrolled in any plan other than NJ Direct15, you will likely not notice an increase in your net pay.

I know some of you had your hopes up that the 2% COLA from the first full pay of July had arrived. I'm sad to say that the increase in pay, though welcomed, is not our COLA. While I have said it in prior updates, in the event you had missed it, the July COLA was withheld by the Administration as we are in negotiations about furlough days. Their belief is that it was easier to not pay us the COLA, than to pay it and then take it back once we reach an agreement about furloughs. While I understand their logic, this union did not endorse their refusal to pay the COLA as owed.

As I have said repeatedly in negotiations and will repeat here: I did not place the membership of Local 30 on a three-year path

to wage equality, the administration did. Where the first step on that path was the migration to a new pay table, the second step was the COLA that we have yet to receive.

With that said, our negotiations on furlough days and COLA adjustments remain ongoing. While this union remains entrenched and continues the fight for our fundamental beliefs and core values, the day will come that we will have something to bring out to the membership for a vote. As the mechanics of such a process in this age of COVID comes into focus, it appears that we'll have live Information Sessions as well as voting both in person and by mail. As for the Information Sessions, IBEW Local Union 269 can fit 25 people in its hall at any one time while maintaining social distancing. For those who would come out to hear about whatever terms we get to vote on, you'll likely need to schedule your attendance times. As for those who cannot come out, this Union will provide all of the information we have along with the ballot and voting instructions. The only aspect of ratification that remains unclear deals with the topic of tele-meetings which we are still looking into.

Rest assured, we will provide you with all of the information about whatever the proposal might be, so that you'll be able to make an informed decision. We continue to do everything we can to get a measure that we can take out to you for ratification.

While many of you have continued to ask, I still will not venture a guess as to a potential timetable. You have my word 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. Given the long hours all of us have been working during this pandemic, your Bargaining Committee appreciates your continued support! We really do love hearing from you and appreciate the time that you take to reach out to us! It means a lot!

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 - Thank you!