



IBEW LOCAL 30

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers AFL-CIO-CFL

March 16, 2021

Good Evening Sisters and Brothers,

As we mark the one-year anniversary of the start of the COVID-19 Pandemic, I would like to begin this update with a bit of good news! After five months of stoic silence from the state we are now back at the table. This comes on the heels of Governor's Budget Address of February 23, 2021 where he stated that because New Jersey is so flush with cash, "this is the time for us to lean into the policies that can fix our decades-old — or in some cases centuries-old — inequities". As you have heard me say repeatedly, our contract sought to fix the inequities in pay that some of us had been experiencing for decades, and in light of the Governor's comments, it remains my hope that we get back onto the path of wage equity.

As I have also said in negotiations and will repeat here: I did not place the membership of Local 30 on a three-year path to wage equality, this 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. Not only are we at the one-year mark of the pandemic, but we are at the nine months mark of our negotiations over the July COLA that was withheld by the Administration as well as the topic of furloughs that were contrived and agreed to by several other unions. This Union and its leadership have never wavered in their commitment to our fundamental beliefs and core values. We remain a beacon for that in which we believe, and that beacon draws managers regardless of political stripe to our organization which places our labor as the single cause that binds us all.

Some time ago I told you that the day will come when we have something to bring out to the membership for a vote. From then until now, COVID restrictions have tightened and loosened and at the moment, under the current social distancing guidelines, IBEW Local Union 269 can fit 56 people in its hall at any one time. While I have hoped to have the furlough / COLA matter resolved by May there is another vote that the local needs to prepare for; and that is the election of officers which is coming up in May. Thus, I will take this opportunity to announce that we will be having an **In Person General Membership Meeting at IBEW LU269 in Lawrenceville NJ on May 19, 2021 at 6:00 PM** to conduct regular business and entertain the nomination of officers. There will be an official bulletin issued closer to that date but mark it on your calendar. In the meantime, if the COLA / Furlough matter comes to a head before that date you all will hear the plans for voting just as soon as we have something for you to vote on. As I have promised and will reiterate here, we will provide you with all 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.

In closing, I look back at the past year and all the members of this local we, as your officers, have heard from. I know that hundreds of us have worked thousands of additional hours to keep our respective ships afloat. While some of us have been lucky enough to work long hours at the Special Project Rate (a rate of pay less than our straight rate) for overtime work, these managers are indeed lucky as many more of us work plenty of extra hours for free as part of being in a NL (No Limit) title. I point this out to state why the concept of a furlough is so abhorrent to the officers and members of this union. It is enough to work long hours because of our commitment to our program areas, but to get hit in the pocket by the same administration that has an unprecedented surplus is downright blasphemy.

Given the long hours all of us have been working during this pandemic, your Bargaining Committee appreciates your continued support and will continue the fight as we're all in this together! As we all move forward, know this: This Union has and will always have your back and if anyone tries to stick a knife in it, they'll have to go through us first!

Stay Safe, Stay Well, and Stay Tuned!

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Al Laubsch
Business Manager – IBEW LU30