



IBEW LOCAL UNION 30

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS AFL-CIO-CFL
212 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608 | 609-695-1960

October 26, 2021

Good Morning Sisters and Brothers,

Since my last message to you, our first of the three deferred 2% COLAs arrived! With that now comes the back pension payment that we owe as part of the Pension Security Plan we ratified. At some point over one of the next three pays you will notice a one-time deduction equal to the pension contribution that would have been due had the COLA arrived on time. If you need specifics, check your Payroll Certifications tab on your Member Benefits Online System (MBOS) home page for the exact amount that will be deducted from your pay. In addition, anyone seeking to retire who has been getting static from their own department about the exact wages to use in the pension calculation please let them know that they need to refer to the Governor's Office of Employee Relations guide sheet on the subject. Again, and as always, if you have a problem and need our help, let us know.

By this time, the Return to the Worksite should be largely complete. I know there have been a host of questions relating to testing kits as well as staggering work time to allow the safe entrance and exit from the worksite. As I have had to remind many of you, if you are given an instruction that you don't like, not following it would be called insubordination. Now, if an instruction is something that is neither illegal nor immoral, the remedy available to all of us is either a contractual or non-contractual grievance. On these matters, if you have any questions, please reach out to us first as we will guide you about how to file a grievance if one can be filed at all. I know departments are and have been issuing return to work exemptions in accordance with their return to the worksite plans. If you have a need for medical purposes or reasons relating to childcare, follow the instructions and make your submissions to your people in Human Resources or as directed. If there are any issues, such as a request denial, or unreasonable modification after you have followed the procedures, please reach out to us.

We are edging ever closer to help for our &98 Managers! The bill as prepared by the Office of Legislative Services, if enacted, will create a system where all &98s will receive an annual raise based on their PAR score as well as a raise if the PAR is not completed. The bill now has all of the necessary sponsors in both houses and will be heard in committee upon the return of the legislature following the elections next month. I will still need your help when these hearings begin. I have heard from a few &98s about testifying on the subject of making ends meet under Public Law 78 without only minimal increases in pay. This local union has continued to push this issue and it looks like we'll at least have a chance to make our vision a reality. To any and all &98s who are represented by IBEW Local Union 30, please reach out to me as it is finally your turn to be heard!

Onto general news, the Fourth Annual IBEW Local Union 30 Scholarship Program closed on 09-30-21 and the applications are in the hands of the judges for review and scoring. It is hoped that the winners will be announced in November, or at the December meeting at the latest. Thank you to everyone who applied and good luck!

As I conclude this message, I want to remind you that Election Day is upon us. We are one of the few groups of people on this earth that get to cast a vote for the person who will be their boss for the next four years. While IBEW Local Union 30 has, from its inception, been a largely a-political union, I, as your Business Manager am going to share a few thoughts with you. To be clear, this does not represent the feelings of the entire Executive Board, though there are many on the board who share these same opinions. The perennial question every politician asks the voter is “are you better off right now than you were four years ago?” Upon reflection, I think of where we were four years ago, and I see where we are now. Sure, it has been a fight, but not just because of this administration, but because of the conditions we were under when the present administration arrived. I look at the accomplishments of the local and must also recognize our partner in the collective bargaining process. Together, we put us on the pay table we now enjoy, lowered the cost of healthcare, preserved our pensions, and kept us from taking furlough days. We are all clearly better off today than we were four years ago though there are some of us who are much better off than others. It is for this reason I am voicing my support for Governor Phil Murphy in his quest to seek a second term.

Now, he is not a man who is without flaws. I have said multiple times through the various negotiations we have gone through that I believe him to be a good man who is surrounded by some truly terrible people and one who relies too much on holdovers from the last administration whose interests are in conflict with our own. But even with all of that said, I remember his first example of true leadership in the pandemic. Right after surgery for kidney cancer, he was in the saddle, showing sound leadership and doing what he could to lead us through the first pandemic in nearly a century. While some of us can and have disagreed with his methods, he has always meant what he said and said what he meant. As managers, we are all leaders in our own right. While we can look back now and think of what could have been different, he gets the credit for having done the best job he could do, for all of us. When you look at this race in terms of New Jersey moving forward or backward, allow me to remind you of our own history. When Christie Todd Whitman took office, we all had the Traditional Plan for health insurance, which was free, and our pension contribution was only 4% of our gross pay. Eight years after the end of her term, when Christopher J Christie took office, our health insurance was 1% of our gross pay and our pension was 5% of our gross pay. Now, our pension is 7.5% of our gross pay and our health insurance, for a mere shadow of a plan as compared to the Traditional Plan is between 5 and 8.5% of our gross pay. Our governor has made his pension payments as required and the health of our pension plan has certainly improved.

When I hear his opponent spout the same tired old lines from that same tired old playbook such as “Government is too big and it spends too much” right there along with “Government is bloated” who should I believe, him or my lying eyes? To the thought that “Government is Too Big”, it is today 4% smaller than it was at the start of the pandemic less than two years ago. The more I listen, the more I remember where I heard such doublespeak before. Chris Christie raised the cost of my health insurance from \$46 per pay to \$384 per pay and followed it in negotiations with phrases like “You make enough, the people under you make too much”. Look, I have spoken to a great number of our members and know that many of you are unhappy with some of the awful people I had mentioned earlier. But ask yourself this, do you dislike the current administration enough to vote against your own self interests? Remember, anything we have done at the bargaining table can be undone in the hands of anyone who is hell bent on doing it. At some level, I want to make sure you all vote. I have told you who I support and understand that there are those who feel differently. One of the best parts about living in America is that we have the right to vote! And so, no matter who your candidate is, make sure you get out there and cast your ballot on Election Day. Our democracy depends on

all of us! In closing, I hope this message finds you well. The Officers, Executive Board and I all appreciate your continued support! I look forward to seeing you and hearing from you soon!

In Solidarity, Forever!

A stylized, blue, cursive signature of Alfred C. Laubsch, Jr.

Alfred C. Laubsch, Jr.
Business Manager – IBEW LU 30

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