



IBEW 2213 NEWSBEAT

July 6th 2018

IN SOLIDARITY



R·I·T
SCIENCE+MATH

SCHOLARSHIP SPOTLIGHT

This week in the spotlight is IBEW 2213 Scholarship recipient, Bryan Serian. Bryan is the son of Jenn Serian from the Northeast area. Read on to learn about him. Also enjoy his essay in which he shares how the union affected his Life!

Bryan Serian-Graduated this year from Columbia High School in East Greenbush, New York. During his high school career he was involved heavily throughout the school. In sports, Bryan played varsity golf helping propel his team to a 20 year win streak high. He is also involved in student council where he is regularly helping and class council where he is president of his class. Not only that but he is also

president of the national honors society. Also, he attended numerous clubs like Youth Activation Committee, Math League, Ski Club, Frisbee Club and Amnesty International. Bryan is continuing his academic career at Rochester Institute of Technology next year and plans to major in Electrical Engineering.

"My name is Bryan Serian and my mom has worked for Verizon for over 25 years. She also has been a union steward for many of those years. My mom has been able to support our family in many different ways because of the union fighting for her job, her benefits and most of all, making the company keep jobs in America.

Our family has very good health insurance. In our economic class, we talk about health insurance and how much it costs. We also discuss how some Americans do not have health insurance. At the dinner table, I asked my parents how much our health insurance cost us. Through my moms work, the cost is very low. If we had to use my dads, it would be 10 times higher. I asked why there was such a difference in cost, and mom said, our union fights to keep our costs as low as possible.

Our family has many discussions about unions. My father does not belong to a union, nor does anyone else in my family. My mom sometimes has to explain to other family members what it means to be on strike and the reasons her union is striking. Some of my family doesn't understand why it happens but she says, "if we don't stand up for what we believe in, the company will take our jobs away." I understand unions and how they operate because of my moms involvement.

Another issue we talk about a lot is retirement. My mom talks about it frequently and tells me all the time to save as much as I can. She says I should always take part in a 401k to save money. She also talks about how much money she would get a month when she retires. I didn't know what that meant, but she explained what a "pension" is and told me the managers at work do not have one anymore, and she is lucky to have one.

There is a lot of talk in the news and in some of my classes about unions and how they used to be compared to how they are today. I can speak about it in class because of the things my mom tells me. It's usually a dinner discussion that I bring back to school the next day.

I'm thankful my mom has her job and all the benefits that go along with it. She is able to be at a lot of my events in school because of the time she gets off work. Thank you for helping my family and helping my mom keep her job."