



December President/Business Manager's Report Barbara Carson

Over the past several weeks IBEW NJ (local 827), CWA District 1 and Districts 2-13 (Mid-Atlantic) and I have been in negotiations with Verizon regarding the federal vaccine mandates. We were unable to come to an agreement and since this is not a contractual issue, Verizon declared we had bargained to an impasse. What does that mean? Basically, they are implementing their last, best and final offer. We had no choice but to end discussions as they refused to continue bargaining. Since then, a federal judge in Georgia filed an injunction regarding the mandate and Verizon's policy that included unpaid leaves of absence for those not vaccinated has been temporarily suspended. If the injunction is lifted, the original plan will immediately go back into effect.

As many of you are aware, in a "Town Hall" virtual meeting with the CSSC on 12/9, a VP responded to a question regarding permanent WAH. She said the union received a proposal from the company months ago with no reply. This is absolutely false. To clear things up and make sure the truth was told, I emailed our CSSC members showing them the letter I sent to Verizon in July advising I was open to discussing a post COVID arrangement and they never answered it. I'm not sure what the purpose of telling this lie was, perhaps to divide us further? We cannot let that happen. Our strength is in our UNITY. I have no updates on WAH right now. We haven't had any discussions. I would completely be in favor of extending again, as soon as I know more I will share it with you.

From my family to yours, I hope you all enjoy the holiday season. Happy New Year!

In Solidarity,

Barb