



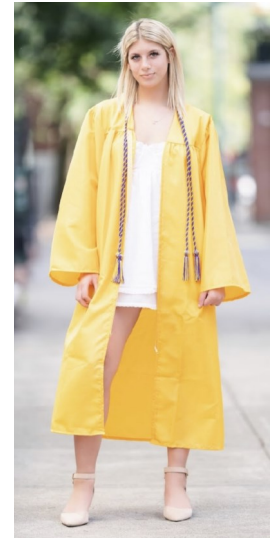
# IBEW 2213 NEWSBEAT

July 21st 2023

IN SOLIDARITY



## JOHNSON & WALES UNIVERSITY



Please join us in congratulating Kaya A George on winning one of the IBEW2213 Scholarships!

**Kaya A George**

**Daughter of Kristi A George (Northeast area-Menanda BSBC)**

**Attending Johnson and Wales University**

My name is Kaya George. I am 18 years old and currently attend Troy High School. I graduate in June and soon will begin a new chapter of my life. In the fall, I plan on attending Johnson and Wales University. During my years there, I will be majoring in Fashion Merchandising and hope to continue playing volleyball and basketball. My mother works for Verizon and is a member of IBEW Local 2213. When I was younger, people would ask me what my mother's career was. I honestly had no idea and would always answer with "something to do with the telephone company." As I got older, my answer would be she works for Verizon, without even really knowing what that actually meant. As years went on, I also realized she was a member of a union. Being part of a union is really important because it demonstrates determination, teamwork and justice in the workplace. It wasn't until my mother went on strike in 2016, that I realized what being part of a union truly meant. My mother did not really show the stress she was going through. I would hear her talk here and there with my father, but honestly was not aware of the impact the strike could have on our lives as a family. When you're a kid, you rarely see the bad in things. As a parent, you don't want your kids to see the bad stuff going on. But one thing my mother did show me and my two sisters was that you should always stand up for yourself and fight for what you believe is right. Looking back I felt bad that I could not help her or comfort her while she was going through this difficult time, but knew my mother was part of a strong union. Being on strike isn't just wanting your job back. It is about fighting for the people you work with and fighting for the people you work with and fighting for each other's rights. That is what my mother did. She fought for 7 weeks and never gave up. Even when she felt like giving up, she remembered how important it was to set an example for us. She showed us to fight for what we believe in. My mother should have never gone through that but she did. Without her fight, who would know where we would be today. This is why I never want to take anything for granted. I know now that the lifestyle we live and the things we do like vacations, cruises, ballgames and concerts is because of the fight not only my mother, but hundreds of union members fought for. The fight for better pay, more time with your family, raises to adjust with the cost of living and job security. One day I hope to be as strong as my mother, if I am ever in that same predicament. I am so thankful and proud to call her my mother and more proud that she is a member of IBEW Local 2213.



**United we bargain, divided we beg.**

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