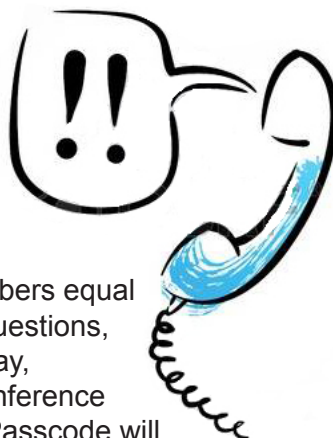


December 7, 2017

Newly Scheduled Meeting

Since there are many NJP offices spread all throughout the state, we were not able to hold individual membership meetings at each location. However, in hopes of allowing all members equal opportunity to receive the information and ask questions, we will hold a virtual meeting at 5 pm on Thursday, December 21st. The Access Number for the conference call will be: 1-855-361-5567. The Participant's Passcode will be: 785831#. OPEIU's Business Manager, Suzanne Mode, and OPEIU Union Representative, Valarie Peaphon, will lead the call.



Update on Health Care for 2018

The Benefits Committee spent the last two months performing a thoughtful and thorough review of possible plan design options. The goal was to provide adequate coverage with reasonable associated costs. The Committee finally decided upon four plan offerings.

Next, in order to address the increased costs of health care with looming open enrollment upon us, the Union needed to immediately bargain this issue separate from the rest of the Contract. Several proposals have been exchanged but no tentative agreement has been reached as of yet. We expect to receive an offer from NJP sometime later today or early tomorrow. Our goal is to ensure that NJP absorbs the increased costs associated with the medical plans. If NJP's next offer is acceptable to the committee we will put it to a vote before the membership ASAP. We will keep you apprised as we make progress on this front.

Contract Bargaining Outline

We are excited to kick off Contract negotiations with NJP in January of 2018! We are working diligently now to prepare. Here is a peek at the process.

- Bargaining Surveys are sent out to the membership. These surveys are used to identify priorities and gather nominations for the Bargaining Team.
- An election is held to establish which members will sit on the Union Bargaining Team.
- Contract proposals are drafted using the information collected from the surveys.
- Meetings are held to check-in with the membership.
- The elected Bargaining Team will work with Union staff to finalize proposals.
- The Union Bargaining Team will begin to meet with Management to negotiate the Contract. The membership will receive updates during this process and meetings will be held as needed.
- The end goal is to reach a tentative agreement on the overall contract which is then brought before the membership for a ratification vote.

OPEIU Bargaining Team

Ashley Beeman, Legal Assistant, Seattle
Meredith Childers, CLEAR Attorney, Seattle
Jefferson Coulter, Attorney, Spokane
Elizabeth Flavin, Attorney, Kent
Chelsea Hicks, Attorney, Seattle
JoAnn Ortiz, Legal Assistant, Everett
Nia Platt, Legal Assistant, Spokane
Blanca Rodriguez, Attorney, Yakima
Mary Welch, Attorney, Bellingham

OPEIU Benefits Committee

Jennifer Ammons, Attorney, Tacoma
Kathleen Bradley, Legal Assistant, Everett
Meredith Bruch, Attorney, Yakima
Allyson O'Malley-Jones, Attorney, Seattle
Abbas Rizvi, Attorney, Seattle
David Surratt, Legal Assistant, Walla Walla
Marilu Veliz, Legal Assistant, Bellingham
Mary Welch, Attorney, Bellingham

***Please contact your Union Representative, Valarie Peaphon,
with any questions, comments, or complaints.
She can be reached at (800) 600-2433 ext. 103 or Valarie@opeiu8.org***

employer/NJP/2017/NJP Update 12.7.17.indd
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