**January 6, 2016**

 High level discussions for Verizon contract bargaining are scheduled and information will be provided as it becomes available. This is a positive step and we look forward to concluding negotiations on a fair and equitable contract.

Tomorrow, January 7, we will meet with Paul Sullivan to discuss plans for NJ this year, an update on the expansion of the FiOS build and re-energizing of the Double Wood project.

The election process has begun with postings for stewards and Chief Stewards, followed by Executive Board/Business Agents and Officers. Candidates Nights will begin next week. Please visit the website for dates, times and locations.

System tech scheduling issues have been fixed across the state. Please report any new issues to your Chief Steward.

The amended and approved Bylaws are now posted to the web. Also, “Retiree News” has an update for Medicare eligible dependents and retirees regarding how to fill scripts for diabetic supplies at the highest level of benefits.

Workers Compensation- a reminder to members hurt on the job who want to be seen by a specialist (most injuries are treated initially by Concentra or another immediate care provider). It is your right to be seen by a specialist for your injury. Contact Sedgewick, WC administrator, to make your request. If you experience a delay in getting treatment, contact your Unit office for assistance. Don’t allow delays to clock away at your medical restriction days. We need to be aggressive in getting proper treatment in a timely manner. Unit offices have additional information on how to assist.

We are gathering information for the next Safety Committee meeting. Bring any unresolved safety issues to the attention of your Chief Steward immediately.

Meetings were held with the company on the Fastenal process for providing supplies to our members and the key dispenser project.  Many questions remain outstanding for the company to respond to. We will continue to protect our member’s jobs and mitigate the impact of these processes.

Remember- In Unity there is strength. We will continue to care for our customers to provide for our future. Work safe, participate in informational pickets and attend general membership meetings.

An informed member is a strong member.