

BARGAINING UPDATE- JULY 28, 2015

Today the Bargaining team met with the company to present a clarification on the Union's information request on Health Care Data as it relates to manufacturer rebates and the Medicare Retiree Drug Subsidy. This information will assist the Union in costing out the company's proposals on prescriptions.

The Union presented an amended proposal on the hearing aid benefit in an effort to find some common ground with the company. The Union also responded to several of the company's MOU proposals.

Wages- we rejected the company's proposal and countered with 16% over the life of the contract. This is equal to what Lowell McAdams' increase was in ONE year.

The union's right to bargaining for retiree healthcare- the company wants to change the agreement made in 2008 which made this a mandatory subject of bargaining. The company no longer wants to bargain with the Unions for retirees going forward. We told the company this is unacceptable, we reject it, and it is a subject that the Unions would strike over.

Pensions and 401k proposal by the company was rejected as being completely inadequate. Disability changes, IME process changes, Sharing of Calls, Job Security, and several other issues were rejected by the Union as being insufficient proposals to protect the future of our members. Off table discussion were also held. We continue to review information for medical benefits as it relates to Actives and Retirees to protect our wages and hard earned benefits.

We will continue to bargain in good faith with the company and hope that the company will get serious with what they really need, not just what they want.....which is too much. A full Blue Moon is coming on July 31....a good sign perhaps? We work diligently toward a fair contract.

We remind the company that taking care of today's workforce builds a strong future for Verizon.

Get involved, stay informed, and attend your general membership meetings. Tomorrow there are two meetings- Northern Unit in Netcong and Southern Unit's in Clayton. Visit our website at www.ibew827.com for details.

Your Bargaining Committee reminds you..... Work Safe-Be Strong- Stay United