

UMDNJ Update

Negotiations Update

The CWA Local 1031 bargaining team met with the UMDNJ bargaining team on Wednesday, May 25th. This was the first full bargaining session since October 2010. CWA Local 1031 leaders had met with UMDNJ bargaining leaders the week before to discuss the need to settle the contract quickly. Both sides came to the table on the 25th with settlement in mind. CWA and UMDNJ agreed to several language changes, each side withdrew several proposals and both agreed to meet again on **Wednesday June 8, 2011** to continue the process. Economic issues were not discussed on the 25th and we hope we can resolve these issues on June 8th. It is our hope that we can settle a contract before any healthcare payment changes are legislated.

Healthcare and Pensions

The State Budget is due July 1, 2011. Healthcare and Pension changes may be legislated this next month. The CWA State Workers have filed an Unfair Labor Practice (ULP) charge against the State for failing to negotiate over health benefits. We are fighting to continue to negotiate changes to health benefits, not have them legislated. There are two proposals out, with a possible third proposal coming soon, that all call for increased contributions to healthcare payments by workers. We are trying to settle our contract before any changes are legislated so that we continue to pay 1.5%.

UMDNJ Merger – Petitions

We do not have any specific updates on the possible merger of UMDNJ and Rutgers or St. Barnabas taking over University Hospital. We are speaking with politicians and cautioning them to slow down the process that could dismantle UMDNJ and we have urged them to contact the new Advisory Committee that is looking into the possible merger. CWA Local 1031, along with other UMDNJ Unions, is joining HPAE in getting petitions signed by our members that urge the following principles be followed:

1. **UMDNJ's services must be maintained**
2. **The process must be transparent and include input from the employees**
3. **Working families should not bear an additional tax burden**
4. **UniversityHospital should remain a public institution**
5. **Collective bargaining must be guaranteed**
6. **All stalled negotiations must be resolved**

We will be emailing a link to the petition so that it can be printed and signatures collected and we will also be at your campuses collecting signatures. Please support this fight to protect your future!

Rally in Newark and Trenton

CWA State Workers are holding rallies in Newark and Trenton with **Jessie Jackson** on Wednesday **June 1, 2011**. The Newark Rally is at Military Park at 12:30 p.m., and the Trenton Rally is at The War Memorial at 5:00 p.m. The message to the Governor is **Respect Workers' Rights** and **Stop Cutting Vital Services to Pay for Tax Cuts for Millionaires**. UMDNJ shares the same health benefits and pensions as State workers and we do not have a contract. We will let the politicians and the Governor know of our concerns for UMDNJ too. If you can attend, please wear red and help send the message.

Layoff and Recall Right Problems

We have had several members who have been laid-off contact Local 1031. They believe they should have been recalled into a position and were not recalled. Two workers have been called to fill positions and then denied the position; positions were posted and filled with another candidate or the positions were pulled. We have several grievances ready to go and have asked UMDNJ for a meeting to resolve these matters. We will keep you posted on these problems.

Membership Meetings

We will be holding membership meetings in Stratford, New Brunswick, Piscataway and Newark the week of June 13th. We are securing the locations and rooms. A separate notice will be sent with information for your meetings in early June.