Essential Worker Pay Negotiations – The Fight Continues!  
Update July 26, 2022

IUOE Members,

At the request of the State, negotiations were rescheduled to allow the State additional time to research and consider our previous proposal. As such, we did not meet on July 15th but instead met on July 25th.

At our July 25th meeting, the State continued to propose a $1,500 one-time payment for only those BU12 members who are currently working in the Department of Corrections, State Hospitals, Developmental Services, and Veterans Affairs. The State did, however, add BU12 members who are currently working in the California Prison Industries (Cal PIA) and those assigned to any declared wildfire emergencies.

The addition of these two groups does increase a small amount of BU12 members who would receive the one-time payment of $1,500. However, it does not cover the BU12 membership as a whole. As the State Legislature begins its recess, the Union will continue to negotiate for all of BU12 to receive the one-time payment of $1,500. Although the legislative recess may impose a delay in the conclusion of bargaining, the Union believes it is necessary to continue bargaining on behalf of those members who are not currently slated to receive the one-time payment.

While the State continues to not recognize the designation of “Essential Worker” and prefers to only address employees who perform work in a healthcare setting or employees who are designated as law enforcement officers. The Union will continue to demonstrate that BU12 members perform work in healthcare settings, law enforcement settings, emergency settings, and various other essential settings, and for that reason all BU12 members should be recognized for such work. Our next meeting with the State is set for August 23rd.

We will provide further updates as more information becomes available.

In Solidarity,

Brandy Johnson  Travis Tweedy  Deric Barnes
District Representative, Local 39   Director, Local 3   Director, Local 501
State of CA Unit 12 & Unit 13 Coordinator