

Bargaining Solidarity Update #15

April 25, 2012

Today was admittedly disappointing. The response from the Company to our comprehensive package was one that saw their position unchanged on health insurance and anti-union proposals (including the union logos). **The proposal to take away our bargaining rights over health care and to increase the Union's lost-time costs are still on the table as they were in the beginning.** In exchange for this we can have a **3% wage increase** in each of the next three years. This was advertised as a "near final package".

There were other items added; modest improvement in the **On Call for Line and Pole** (for the first time in 15 years) and improvements in **clearing our personnel files.**

They also told us they were not interested in providing "no layoff" language for workers at BGS and were not interested in improving the wages of Maintenance Mechanics (which is different from what they have been telling these folks at work). **The Union believed it had presented greater practical flexibility for BGS workers than the Company itself proposed – yet they would not agree to our language.** They appear to be trying to "blame the union" for any possible layoffs that may come.

The OPEIU and IBEW Bargaining Committees will be meeting this weekend to work on our response to the Company's Package #1. **The IBEW will be bargaining again with MGE on Monday, the last day of the contract.**

This Thursday we have a Union Meeting at 5:00 pm in the Labor Temple and a Retirement Club Meeting at 11:00 am at The Old Country Buffet on East Washington Avenue. We have to plan our next steps in this struggle and hope to see you at these important meetings.

In Solidarity,

IBEW 2304 Bargaining Committee