

Maine AFL-CIO E-Newsletter 5.20.16

In this newsletter: Osco Pharmacists, Verizon Strike Picketing 5/21, Nurses Victories

Pharmacists at Osco Fighting for 1st Contract- You can help

Pharmacists at Osco (located inside Shaw's Supermarkets) voted to form a union with the Teamsters Local 340 and now are fighting with the company to win a first contract. Their biggest goal is a change in weekly scheduling, because the current schedule is very disruptive and difficult to their lives.

You can help! If you shop at Shaw's, take a moment to swing by the pharmacy and give them kudos and encouragement. You could say, "did you recently form a union here? Great work, and keep it up. I am happy to be a union member too."

(FYI- Not all of the staff at the pharmacy are union members-- just the pharmacists, so you can either ask if they are part of the union, or talk to anyone there about why it's a good thing to be union!)



Verizon Strike Enters 5th Week- Solidarity Action in Biddeford Saturday

Verizon Wireless workers are standing up against corporate greed and fighting to prevent outsourcing of their jobs. From Massachusetts to Virginia, nearly 40,000 Verizon Wireless workers represented by CWA and IBEW have been on strike.

At Verizon, the CEO to employee pay ratio is 208:1, but apparently that's not enough and the CEO is demanding concessions from the workers.

A picketing action in solidarity with the striking workers is planned for **Saturday, May 21st from 11am- 1pm at Verizon Wireless in Biddeford (127 Shops Way)**

Come support the striking workers. Signs will be provided, please do not bring your own. Supporters are encouraged to wear red, (but **not** any IBEW insignia for legal reasons).

If you can't make the picket but want to help, they are collecting donations for a strike fund for striking workers in need. You can contribute to New England striking workers here:

www.gofundme.com/unitynewengland

Nurses win contracts in Calais, Houlton, Ellsworth

Members of the Maine State Nurses Association have had big wins in recent bargaining.

Nurses in **Calais** won a 3 year contract that includes wage increases at Calais Regional Hospital. After threatening to strike, the nurses at **Houlton** Regional Hospital won a fair contract including raises. Just last week in **Ellsworth**, nurses settled a 3 year contract with new safe staffing language and pay raises.

These contract wins were a result of solidarity and nurses standing shoulder to shoulder for their patients and their community. This follows up on the recent wins at EMMC in Bangor and Home Health Visiting Nurses.

Congrats to these nurses for their hard work and dedication to patient safety and fairness at work. Still at the bargaining table are TAMC in Presque Isle and Downeast Hospital in Machias.



Above: Maine State Nurses Association members in Calais (left) and Ellsworth (right) win fair contracts in recent negotiations.

Maine AFL-CIO • 21 Gabriel Drive, Augusta, Maine
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