COLUMBIA GAS WORKERS UNITE

SEPTEMBER 2024

FAMILY TIME: ONE OF THE BEST PERKS OF UNION MEMBERSHIP

IT'S SIMPLE. BEING PART OF A UNION MEANS MORE TIME TO SPEND WITH YOUR FAMILY.

From Labor Day Parades to paid leave to the very idea of having a weekend, the American middle class has Unions to thank for the time we all enjoy with friends and family. It's a basic truth for people around the nation, whether they're in a Union or not. That's because some of labor's best ideas – like the weekend – became so popular that they became part of our culture.

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For too many workers, however, precious time with family and workplace protections are being clawed back by greedy employers. Not so when you're in a Union. As Union members, we stand by one another, making sure we all have the pay, benefits, and time we need to care for our families.

And we have fun while we're doing it! Being in a Union means having a community. Check out some of the fun UWUA members at Local G-555 had right here in Ohio at the recent family picnic!

Don't miss out on the fun!

Call **Deirdre (484-678-8896), Valerie (202-412-5258),** or **J.J. (330) 631-1751** to learn more and to get involved.

THE UNION DIFFERENCE

ADVOCATING FOR WORKERS WHEN COMPANIES CHANGE HANDS

One year ago, Dominion Energy announced its intention to sell its Ohio operations to Enbridge, a firm headquartered in Canada. Immediately, the leadership of UWUA Local G-555 sprang into action and began bargaining to protect members' pay, benefits and working conditions.

In February of this year, G-555 sent a letter to its members outlining their successes at the bargaining table. First and foremost, Enbridge agreed to assume all obligations under the current collective bargaining agreement, which is in effect until June 15, 2027. In other words, the contract between workers and their employer remained in effect, despite the company changing hands.

Still, the local bargained for more on behalf of its members, securing two unprecedented benefit enhancements:

- A one-time contribution of $23,000 to the 401(k) account of each active employee represented by the union, regardless of seniority.
- A one-time increase of 8% to retiree benefits for all those who retired before February 19, 2024. It goes into effect in September but will be retroactive to April 1. In September, retirees will receive a check for the retroactive bump. The increase also will be provided to those individuals who are considered "deferred" — those vested but not currently receiving pension benefits — once they begin to collect.

In response to the payout, G-555 President Eddie Hall received countless messages from both retirees and active members: "Many had trouble believing it's real, but I assured them it is. They're blown away with excitement."

With 1,019 active members as well as 1,622 retirees and surviving spouses combined, these two enhancements represent a payout of approximately $44 million. Both enhancements were contingent on the sale closing, which occurred on March 7 when Dominion Energy Ohio was sold to Enbridge Inc. and became Enbridge Gas Ohio.

The sale now complete, Hall is optimistic about working with the new owner: "Dominion was primarily an electric company. Enbridge is a gas company, and they understand our business and where we need to go to keep growing."

Gas Workers Union
7777 Exchange Road, Suite 11
Valley View, OH 44125

WANT TO LEARN MORE AND GET INVOLVED?

SCAN HERE!

QUESTIONS? CONCERNS? CALL DEIRDRE (484-678-8896), VALERIE (202-412-5258), OR J.J. (330) 631-1751) TO LEARN MORE ABOUT BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE UTILITY WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA (UWUA) AND TO GET INVOLVED.

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