COLUMBIA GAS WORKERS UNITE

NOVEMBER 2024

UNION MEMBERS HAVE SO MUCH TO BE GRATEFUL FOR

FROM PREDICTABLE SCHEDULING AND TRANSPARENT PAY INCREASES TO SAFE WORKING CONDITONS AND A SECURE RETIREMENT, UNION MEMBERSHIP PROVIDES WORKERS WITH MULTIPLE REASONS TO GIVE THANKS!

TIME OFF

There are plenty of holidays this time of year. We all enjoy them – and some even take them for granted – but did you know that until labor unions, workers barely had any time off at all, even for holidays? In fact, the very idea of the weekend came out of the labor movement, which gave us the standard 8-hour workday, the 5-day work week, and the weekend. While today millions of non-Union workers still expect to have a weekend and paid leave, many others can only wish they had paid time off at their jobs. Still, Union workers set the standard for holidays, long weekends, sick time, and other forms of paid time off – it's a big part of the reason Union workers are thankful for their membership!

JOB SECURITY

Jobs just don't last as long as they used to generations ago. Long gone are the days of finding a job after graduation and keeping it through to retirement. The economy has fundamentally changed, and so too have people's relationships to their employment.

While workers should have the freedom to move around and change jobs as they like, no one wants to live with the uncertainty of losing their livelihood at a moment's notice – especially through no fault of their own. That's where Union membership can help. By bargaining for things like progressive discipline, seniority, and the causes for disciplinary action, Unions can help make sure that members have a greater degree of job security than non-Union workers.

STORY CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

REPRESENTATION

Whether it's bargaining for a new contract or facing a disagreement with a supervisor, Union members don't go it alone. At the bargaining table, Union members team up with seasoned negotiating pros to come to an agreement with employers that reflects the wants and needs of workers. It doesn't end there! When an individual worker is called in by their supervisor for a disciplinary matter – or even something that the worker merely suspects may have to do with discipline – that Union worker is entitled to have a representative of their choosing with them at all times. From the time a Union worker begins their employment, they know the terms of their contract and have the peace of mind that comes with knowing they will always be represented on the job.

PROMOTIONS YOU CAN COUNT ON

In non-Union workplaces, promotions mean politics. Too often, the person who gets the job may not be the right person for the job – but they likely knew the right people to land it! When you're in a Union, there's transparency in the process. That's because Unions and employers bargain for a promotion process that outlines qualifications, timeframes, pay increases and more, so that anyone seeking a promotion knows how to attain it and in how much time, and knows what the difference in their pay will be once they start at their new position. Talk about a reason to give thanks!

What would YOU be thankful for as a Union member? Call Deirdre (484-678-8896) or J.J. (330) 631-1751 to let us know and to get involved so we can move one step closer to getting our Union!

Learn more at: ColumbiaWorkersUnite.org

THE MEANING OF MEMBERSHIP

CURRENT AND RETIRED UWUA MEMBERS SHARE WHAT THEY'RE THANKFUL FOR

As a retiree, I feel like I can speak freely. These days, I'm thankful for my pension, stock incentives, and the health benefits I receive for my wife and myself every single day. We wouldn't have any of it if not for my strong Local and National – and I know! I helped to bargain for many of these amazing benefits.

Throughout my career, my Union family always stood shoulder to shoulder with me, and I with them. For 20 years, I was the president of a gas Local that covered six states. One of the proudest moments in my tenure was when we affiliated with the UWUA!

Our Local operated out of Clarksburg, WV, representing employees of CNG, then Dominion, throughout West Virginia, Ohio, New York , Virginia and Maryland. When I think back on all that we achieved together, all the gas workers whose lives changed for the better once we organized – it was all worth it.

Want something to be thankful for? Do the math and get involved!!

— Charlie Rittenhouse
United Gas Workers Local 69, UWUA, AFL- CIO (Ret.)

"I'm thankful for the opportunity the union has provided me for my family and the benefits it has provided for me growing up and now having my own family."

Amber Lalonde
UWUA Member

Gas Workers Union
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WANT TO LEARN MORE AND GET INVOLVED?

SCAN HERE!

QUESTIONS? CONCERNS? CALL DEIRDRE (484) 678-8896 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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