

Philly Members Win Big Raise! *Health Premium Share Eliminated*

On October 21, Philly members of 32BJ voted overwhelmingly to ratify a new contract.

The contract eliminates premium sharing for health care, improves leave time and pension benefits and provides a 16% increase in wages over the life of the agreement. Philly members now have the right to honor picket lines and cleaning contractors agreed to have all their work in Philadelphia covered by the contract.

The participation of NYC members in the September 27 rally in Philadelphia helped us win this victory. Winning BIG in Philadelphia has set the stage for victories in all of our commercial contract negotiations including New York.

SAVE THE DATE & BE THERE!

UPCOMING

CONTRACT CAMPAIGN DATES:

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 5th - 9th
CAT Training week. Learn about our contract proposals. Actions and strike preparation plans. Call your delegate for details.

NOVEMBER 13th
Membership Meeting 2pm
Manhattan Center 311 W 34 St/8th Ave.

NOVEMBER 12 – 16
Union wide Sticker Week. ALL 32BJ members in your building should wear stickers during this week.

NYC Bargaining Begins

Negotiations for a new contract for New York City's 26,000 commercial members began on October 24. President Mike Fishman is the Chief Negotiator for our New York City Bargaining Committee of 50 members. Over 300 Commercial Action Team members (CATs) attended bargaining to hear the union's opening presentation.

Twenty members of the Realty Advisory Board's (RAB) bargaining committee of building owners, managers and contractors listened as President Mike Fishman and Secretary-Treasurer Hector Figueroa outlined the union's key demands including:

- Strong wage increases for all commercial members to get ahead of inflation
- Increased employer contributions to protect our health insurance coverage and pension benefits
- Better contract language to protect our jobs and help organize more non-union workers

Bargaining will continue over the next two months. The commercial contract expires on New Year's Eve, Monday December 31.

The NYC Real Estate market is booming:

- Class A office buildings rents up 26% last year and are expected to continue rising
- Vacancy rates have dropped to 5.3%, a six-year low--pushing rents higher
- Average office rents are up to \$70 per square foot, with some going for over \$100 per square foot.
- Our wages have NOT kept up with inflation.

It's time to get our fair share!