



NEWS

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CONTACTS:

Lynsey Kryzwick: 917-683-4474

Kate Ferranti: 212-388-3469; 917-968-7853

WESTCHESTER AND FAIRFIELD AREA OFFICE CLEANERS WIN NEW CONTRACT THAT EXPANDS EMPLOYER-PAID FAMILY HEALTH CARE COVERAGE

New four-year master agreement raises wage and benefit standards

White Plains, NY - Just three days before the strike deadline, the Local 32BJ Bargaining Committees for Hudson Valley and Fairfield County announced a tentative agreement on a new four-year contract, which will result in more full-time jobs in urban centers, family health care coverage for more working families and improved health benefits for all members. Under the agreement, workers will receive wage increases of 19 percent over the life of the contract. The new contract covers nearly 4,000 workers who clean office buildings and facilities in Fairfield County and the Hudson Valley, including the majority of large office space in downtown White Plains and Stamford.

“Expanded health care coverage will allow workers to take better care of themselves and their families – without worrying about breaking the budget on basic health expenses,” said Kurt Westby, Local 32BJ Connecticut Director.

By the end of the contract, all cleaners working at buildings over 400,000 square feet in White Plains and Stamford, and several other large buildings throughout the region, will be provided fully employer-paid family health coverage. This will affect up to 400 office cleaners and their families, many of whom were previously without health insurance or were covered by state-funded health care programs.

“With real raises and improved benefits, this contract will get White Plains and Stamford workers closer to achieving the American Dream,” said Shirley Aldebol, Local 32BJ Hudson Valley Director.

Over the four years, office cleaners will gain \$2.00 an hour in wage increases – a 19 percent increase.

Fully employer-paid family health care coverage will be maintained for all full-time workers, and part-time workers will have an improved health benefit, which will include life insurance, a prescription drug benefit and dental and optical insurance.

“This agreement is a major step forward for office cleaners in the Northern suburbs who will greatly benefit from increased wages and better benefits,” said Michael Fishman, Local 32BJ President. “Local 32BJ members from Hartford, CT to Washington, DC are united to make work pay.”

Westchester and Fairfield office cleaners have been negotiating their contracts alongside nearly 45,000 union members from the Tri-State Area, as well as Pennsylvania, Maryland and Washington, DC. Bargaining is on-going for 26,000 commercial cleaners in New York City. Tentative agreements were reached yesterday in New Jersey, Washington, DC, Montgomery County, and Baltimore.

With some 100,000 members in six states and Washington, DC, including nearly 4,000 in Fairfield County and the Hudson Valley, Local 32BJ is the largest property services union in the country.

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