



CONTRACT 2016



DISTRICT LODGE 26 AND ITS AFFILIATED LOCAL LODGES 700 & 1746

IAM Says “NO” to Proposed “BYOM” Benefits

Insurance and Pensions: “Bring Your Own Money”

Negotiations continued on November 10 & 14 between Pratt/UTC management and your IAM Negotiating Committee. Talks reconvene Wednesday, November 16.

After an opening day session that included lots of praise for hourly workers, commitments to be fair and frank in bargaining, and pledges of solidarity from our IAM International Leaders – things got down to the nitty-gritty in the last two bargaining meetings.

Thursday’s top topic was health insurance. This Monday management spent half the day describing their new approach to retirement benefits. Management rolled out PowerPoints, presentations, benefits experts, charts and paperwork. **The one missing ingredient? Any improvements for hourly Pratt workers.**

Feeling Sick? Bring Cash. Lots of It.

Every day that you work, you enhance and improve products that eventually reach the market and add to the company’s bottom line. There are plenty of people waiting to get their share of your work product – from investors to high-priced executives living large off your work.

You are at the end of the buffet line, even though you make the money. So when you “cost more,” by getting sick for instance – there’s just not enough money to cover those bills, so those are yours.

Pratt’s proposed insurance plans are all high premiums and high deductibles. Yes, there are preventive medicine measures like physicals that are included at little or no cost. But deductibles of thousands of dollars mean that a trip to the hospital better include a side trip to the bank to pay the gap before insurance actually kicks in.

Save Up for Getting Sick

Pratt understands what a hardship medical bills can be, especially at a time when you or another family member are seriously ill. So the company will help you save some of your own pay every week, to have on hand when you get hit by a bus. There’s even a small matching feature. But even a Pratt paycheck only goes so far. What’s left of the paycheck after filling all the set-aside accounts?

IAM chief negotiator Mike Stone summed up the Union’s response:

“You all have the worst health care.”