

CWA LOCAL 1040

October 2022 Newsletter

CONVENTION EDITION

CWA Local 1040 Convention

The 38th Annual CWA Local 1040 Convention was held virtually on Friday, October 7, 2022. Our theme was “Tried and Tested...STILL STANDING STRONG!!!” Vice President Dennis Trainor opened the Convention and welcomed the delegates, officers, committee members, staff and guests. He installed Michele Long-Vickers as Local President and Duwaine Walker as Executive Vice President. Mr. Trainer spoke of solidarity and the work we have to do.

Shop Steward of the Year Award

Department of Health

Abram Harris

Department of Human Services

Quanisha Parker

Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

Felicia Martinez

Juvenile Justice Commission

Chuck Murphy

Private Sector

Eldima Acevedo

Constance J. English Organizing Award

Rosalind Moore

Altima Hill / Anne R. Williams Applications for Scholarship

Scholarship Awards were given to fourteen (14) members or their family members attending college.

Workshop Theme
“Vote Like Your Life Depends on It”

There was an afternoon workshop given by Political Action Coordinator Chris Estevez, to educate our members. To find your district representative please visit <http://www.njleg.state.us/legislative-roster>

In Other News

State of New Jersey Bargaining Contracts are out. Complete yours TODAY!

We Need Your Info

CWA Local 1040 is looking to communicate electronically and needs your email information to do so. By sending email updates, we are able to communicate quickly on issues of importance. Please visit our webpage to update your email.

Health Benefits Success

State of New Jersey employees recently faced a substantial increase in the State Health Benefits Program (SHBP). The State of New Jersey proposed a more than 20% increase that would directly impact our memberships' finances while American workers cope with the rising cost of food, goods and utilities. Throughout mobilization efforts and negotiations with the State, CWA successfully navigated from 20% plus increase to a 3% increase, though CWA vigorously fought to secure zero increases. CWA's efforts highlight the power of mobilization and union activism.

Local Government employees are now confronted with the same healthcare challenge that plagued State employees earlier. CWA Local 1040's President Michele Long-Vickers voiced that CWA would work tirelessly to push back against the proposed increases. To win this fight, we must all be engaged – we must unite to fight for our union brothers and sisters in local government to stave off these harmful increases.

Ombudsperson Update

The Health Benefits Ombudsperson Program is collaborative agreement (MOA July 1, 2019) between the State of New Jersey and the Communications Workers of America, AFL-CIO (CWA) to address the critical need for additional employee services within the State Health Benefit Program (SHBP). The Ombudspersons' purpose is to assist State Employees and their covered dependents with SHBP health benefits including mental health. They will collaborate with the coordinators for State Departments' Human Resources and CWA to conduct new hire orientations, worksite meetings, promote new healthcare tools and services. The following services will be provided by the Ombudsperson:

- Provide health benefits information and counseling during new hire orientations
- Assist employees with health plan selections during new hire on-boarding and open enrollment periods
- Assist employees and covered dependents with finding in-network health benefit services
- Assist employees and retirees with selection and enrollment in the Direct Primary Care Medical Homes (DPCMH)
- Assist employees with coverage denials, quantity management, pre-authorizations, medical necessity and other coverage issues, including interfacing directly with SHBP, Treasury and appropriate medical or prescription providers
- Conduct surveys of mental health and other healthcare needs of the effectiveness of the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) available through the State of New Jersey and shell assist in tabulating and analyzing the results of various healthcare related surveys and other data collection initiatives.

The Health Benefits Ombudsperson Program will have a positive impact on all parties within the Memorandum of Agreement by providing excellent service to employees, building trust relationships between all parties, and working collaboratively to resolve an employees' case efficiently and effectively.

Peggy Johns

Health Ombudsperson, CWA Local 1040

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Be In the Know: Visit Our Social Network Links

CWA Local 1040 website: <https://local1040cwa.com>

CWA Local 1040 on Facebook: Find us on Facebook

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