



June 14, 2022

To: All USW Local Union Presidents and Recording Secretaries

Re: **Improved Strike Benefits**

Greetings:

Our Union's Strike and Defense Fund was created in 1968 at a special convention of our union. Since its inception, the Fund has paid out over a billion dollars in defense of our union and its members. Under the rules established for the Fund, the International Union's Executive Board determines the formula for the weekly allotments allowed in any given strike situation. The current formula, effective February 2021, provides a weekly strike benefit of \$260 beginning in week four (4) of a strike. From time to time, the International Executive Board has been able to modify the formula used, while at the same time keeping the Strike and Defense Fund healthy and strong.

We are pleased to advise you that the International Executive Board unanimously voted on May 25, 2022 to reduce the minimum waiting period for strike benefits to begin. Effective for strikes beginning June 1, 2022 or after, our weekly strike allotment will be paid beginning in week three (3) of a strike.

We want to emphasize, consistent with our Strike and Defense Rules, these allotment figures bear no direct relationship to the amount of assistance, if any, that a needy striker may receive. The allotment per member figure determines the amount of the maximum allotment for a given local union on strike. The amount of strike assistance, if any, given to an individual striker is related to their degree of need rather than to any fixed figure.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas M. Conway".

Thomas M. Conway
International President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John E. Shinn".

John E. Shinn
International Secretary-Treasurer

C: International Executive Board
USW Staff Representatives
USW Auditors