

# CBS Bargaining Update

December 27, 2010

Over the past decade our telecommunications and broadcasting locals have felt the impact of technical changes, mergers, acquisitions and a reduction in membership. The two branches are more closely related in the business of providing communications and content than ever. This is one of the many considerations used in the decision to merge the two departments.

The new department, yet to be named, will still continue to represent the two industries. Director Martha Pultar will oversee the combined branch. International Representative Laura Robinson will continue her duties supporting broadcasting members, while International Representatives, Kevin Curran and Robert Erickson will remain focused on telecommunications. It is important to President Hill and your bargaining committee that the members we represent and the industries where we have members employed maintain their identities. Both branches have a long history in the brotherhood and with this merge we believe we have strengthened their position for a more secure future. We take pride in recognizing each industry and the professionalism our members bring to them.

We want to thank all of you who have submitted your suggestions and concerns regarding your collective bargaining agreement with CBS. Your participation in this process is the key to successful negotiations. For those of you who have been through these rounds of talks in the past, you know that negotiations can be tough; we expect this to be difficult also. It's only been through your solidarity and support that we have achieved the high standards in this industry that we hold in our contracts.

International President Ed Hill has assigned International Representatives Tim Dixon and Dominick Macchia to lead and assist in CBS negotiations. Department Director Martha Pultar and International Representative Laura Robinson will also assist as needed with Business Managers Lloyd Webster, Lil Firmani, Ralph Avigliano and John Rizzo and the various committees.

The committees are continuing to meet with the CBS in an attempt to find common ground and hammer out issues prior to the next phase of negotiations. We thank all of the committee members for their patience and perseverance.

The next meeting is scheduled on January 20<sup>th</sup> with CBS to exchange proposals. Thereafter, the next meetings are scheduled from January 29<sup>th</sup> through February 3<sup>th</sup>. These sessions will consist of meetings with IBEW committee chairpersons, full committees and three days of bargaining with CBS.

We wish you all a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year!!!

In solidarity,

The IBEW – CBS Bargaining Team