

Dear Lenny,

Please convey a message to all the striking members of CWA Local 1118 for me. I have had the extreme privilege of walking picket lines at different locations with them. I am so impressed with everyone I meet and it's wonderful to see the great people I have worked with. I have no doubt that their unity and tenacity will leave the entire contract in tack. Absolutely no doubt.

Also there are many who I have seen on the picket lines who have been through this before and will be glad to share their knowledge. They know that the strike changes you in a very positive way. Never again will you let a manager lead you to believe that they are in any way responsible for the life you have because of your victories. Take a hard look at what the Company is going to try to take away. Do not let them. It is yours. It is not theirs to take away. This is what your predecessors have won over the years.

At first you will be afraid of a change in your lifestyle. There are many things you won't have to pay for such as babysitting, parking and other things like clubs, parties and the like. It's amazing how much of a drain on your finances working is. You will learn how to be creative and you will learn something about yourself. There are safety nets in place that will get you through your fight for victory. Yes, you will tighten your belt but no home, car or boat has ever been lost while on strike. Now will be no different.

You are so blessed to have the opportunity to look victory in the eye. You are in rare company. Union membership is declining. Keep the union strong forever.

In Solidarity,
Pat Cumo