

President's Message
July 2, 2008

I am pleased to announce that the negotiation committee has reached a tentative agreement with the Legal Services Plan for a new 2008-2012 Collective Bargaining Agreement. The agreement is subject to ratification by the membership. The proposed CBA will be in presented in detail as soon as next week.

Suffice it to say that CBA negotiations were vigorous. As you are aware, the U.A.W. and our domestic auto industry sponsors are experiencing a very difficult period. The price of oil is at record highs and trending higher. Credit markets are tight. Consumer sentiment is poor. This environment has been particularly hard on the domestic auto industry. As a result, the Plan sponsors were reluctant to incur additional costs with the Legal Services Plan.

Despite the challenging environment for our Sponsors, the Local 3357 was able to set the template for Plan benefits and achieve real gains. Under the new agreement Union members will maintain their extraordinary health care coverage without cost increases. This was accomplished despite a 32% cost increase for family medical coverage over the period of 2004-2008 (currently at \$22,905/year). The agreement also offers reasonable salary increases and sizeable bonuses despite auto industry contractions. In addition, the membership will receive the continued benefit of generous Plan 401K contributions of up to 10% without matching – and, they will be distributed quarterly (instead of annually). Also, access to a new Roth 401K option will be made available. These 401K changes will be implemented as soon as possible in 2009.

I would like to thank all of our members for your patience and helpful input during the negotiations process. I would also like to thank the negotiations committee for the hundreds of hours of work and personal sacrifice required to reach the agreement.

The negotiations committee unanimously recommends ratification.

Best regards,

Mike Forbes