

UAW Local 2300

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REPRESENTING: Cornell University service and maintenance employees; Finger Lakes Library System employees; Ithaca Housing Authority service and maintenance employees; Tompkins County Public Library professional and support staff employees; Southern Cayuga Lake Intermunicipal Water System clerical and technical staff; TCAT bus drivers and mechanics



May 13, 2025

From: Christine (Johnson) Charles, President UAW Local 2300

To: All UAW Local 2300 Members

Dear Sisters, Brothers, Siblings,

As my time as your president for the last 19.5 months draws to a close, I find myself reflecting on the collective strength that binds us together. It is this unity, this shared commitment, that has been the driving force behind our very recent achievements. Together, through our collective strength, we not only successfully navigated the complexities of multiple contract negotiation campaigns, resulting in agreements that serve our membership well, but we also stood firm and navigated a successful strike that further secured our rights and benefits. Moreover, thanks to our collective efforts and sound financial management, our local funds and revenues are at an all-time high, positioning us for continued strength and future opportunities. We have also witnessed over ten percent growth in our Local's numbers, further amplifying our collective strength, and we have built stronger bridges of communication to ensure everyone stays connected and informed.

Building on our collective strength, the successful negotiation of contracts at SCLIWS (aka Bolton Point), Cornell University, Ithaca Housing Authority and TCAT have delivered significant improvements for our members, including historic wage increases, enhanced paid time off, and better, safer working conditions. These agreements reflect our united front and unwavering commitment to securing the best possible outcomes for every member.

Our collective strength was also powerfully demonstrated during the successful strike at Cornell University. Your solidarity and determination in the face of adversity were instrumental in achieving a Cost-of-Living Adjustment and the collapse of an unjust tier system, while simultaneously offering no concessions. This victory stands as a testament to what we can accomplish when we stand together.

The growth in our membership is another key indicator of our local's vitality and influence. Welcoming new members strengthens our collective voice and provides us with greater resources to advocate for our shared interests. This growth is a direct result of the value members find in our UAW and in union jobs.

Furthermore, our commitment to sound financial management, coupled with our growing membership, has resulted in our Local assets and related per capita to the International UAW reaching an all-time high. This financial stability allows us to invest in our members and provide a strong foundation for any future challenges to the Local.

Finally, we have made significant strides in improving communication within our diverse Local. By implementing a website with text opt-ins, offering regular and transparent bargaining and other updates, and implementing a dedicated communications assistant, Ryan Stratton, we have fostered a more informed and engaged membership. Ensuring everyone has access to timely and relevant information strengthens our unity and empowers participation.

As my presidency closes, I am pleased to welcome our next UAW Local 2300 leader, John Tavares. John's extensive background in contract enforcement and bargaining provides a strong continuity of leadership and positions our Local for continued success. I am confident that under his guidance, our union will continue to thrive and effectively serve the needs of our members.

As my term concludes, I want to reiterate the power of our unity. It is through our collective action that we have achieved so much, and it is this same unity that will propel us forward under the leadership of incoming President Tavares. Thank you for your commitment to our union's goals. I remain a proud UAW Local 2300 member and look forward to continuing to work alongside you all in the days ahead.

In solidarity,

Christine

