



On The Move

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Strike Authorized for 11/1/16, at 12:01 a.m.

On October 16, the members of Local 234 voted to set a firm strike deadline if a new agreement is not reached by 12:01 a.m. on November 1, 2016---no extensions allowed. With the strike deadline looming, SEPTA is digging in and refusing to negotiate a fair and reasonable contract that provides for pension reforms, quality health care benefits, decent wage increases and improvements in working conditions for transportation and maintenance employees. Instead, the Authority has offered a contract that is an insult to our members and their families. Just consider these highlights from SEPTA's latest offer:

Wages: 5.5% over 5 years, as follows: 2016 (-0-), 2017 (1%), 2018 (1%), 2019 (1.5%), and 2020 (2%). By the time it expires, we'll be taking home less than we take home now, especially when you add SEPTA's demand to increase our health care contributions from 1% to 3% of pay!

Benefits: SEPTA is offering a "buy up" health plan. In other words, you get an inferior health care plan if you make the 3% contribution, but you have to pay the 3% plus \$352 a month to maintain your current family coverage. On prescription meds, SEPTA wants to raise co-pays for mail-in meds from: \$5 to \$22 for generics; from \$10 to \$62 for brand; and, from \$20 to \$106 for non-preferred brand named meds.

Pensions: SEPTA is offering nothing, nada, zero in pension improvements, while seeking to reduce medical coverage for retirees, even though they recently increased their own pension benefits by over **\$600 per month**, on average.

Holidays: SEPTA wants to eliminate two paid holidays.

Meanwhile, SEPTA is refusing to budge on any of the issues the Union has on the table, including improvements in pension benefits, working conditions, job security, limiting the use of video cameras for discipline, privacy and subletting---to name just a few of the issues we are fighting for.

In sum, SEPTA seems determined to provoke a walkout by refusing to seriously address the Union's proposals, while pushing hard for major concessions impacting our health care, wages and pension benefits. Get ready. It looks like we'll have to rumble for our survival.

WE MUST AND WE WILL!