September 24th, 2025

Attention Local #491 Board of Trustees,

Hello. My name is [redacted]. I am reaching out to ask multiple questions on behalf of our members.

Could you please explain the process to increase the temporary disability rate per week? The amount paid to our eligible members is $300 a week at this time. That amount is significantly lower than the typical weekly pay for our members. If a member is eligible for this benefit, they have sustained a medical issue or medical emergency that could take weeks or months to recover from. Please let us know what the options are for an increase during the thirteen weeks of coverage.

Could you please tell us what can be done to raise the vision benefit amount per year? The benefit amount is $250 currently. After our coverage is applied and subtracted from the total, most members are still paying almost $500 out of pocket, on average. Please let us know what we need to do to have this coverage amount raised.

The last topic that our members are concerned with is our Death benefit. This benefit is contingent of the members having enough hours worked to be eligible for full medical. If a member becomes terminally ill or diagnosed with an illness that they must fight, such as cancer, they cannot be at work and receiving treatment at the same time. Could you please tell us what we can do to effectively change this? Could we go by credits? Or years in the Brotherhood? An example being that if a 24 year member with fifteen pension credits is diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer and chooses to fight, but looses that battle a year and a half later, what can we change to make sure that their family still receives their death benefit? If we could make that benefit contingent on something besides full medical coverage at the time of their death, what would it be? Can we please have a list of options or possibilities for the eligibility requirements to change?

Respectfully.
[redacted]
Baltimore, MD 21222
[redacted]