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NEWS >>

NILES FIRE DEPARTMENT RATIFIES STRONG FOUR-YEAR TEAMSTERS AGREEMENT

Teamsters Local 700 members with the Niles Fire Department voted unanimously to ratify their contract on January 11 with a 35-0 margin. The current contract between the Village of Niles and Local 700 will expire on April 30, 2017, and the new contract will be effective on May 1, 2017.

The four-year agreement includes a 9.5 percent raise for all members across the life of the contract, with a two percent increase in the first year and 2.5 percent increase each of the next three years. Members will also receive the same health care and sick time/duty injury benefits that were in the previous contract at no extra cost to them.

Negotiations between the Village and Local 700 were held on January 5 and a new contract draft was agreed upon a few days later. Niles Fire Department Steward Rich Scipione said everyone was pleased with how quickly the negotiating process took place.

“We have never signed a contract so quick,” said Scipione. “Last time, we had to go three years without a contract. This time, we were focused on maintaining our benefits and we continue to be a top paid fire department.”

An additional benefit that continues in the new contract is tuition reimbursement up to \$3,050 per calendar year for full-time employees who are continuing their education.

“We are privileged to represent the hardworking members of the Niles Fire Department and I am thrilled they have secured another strong Teamster contract,” said Local 700 President and Teamsters Joint Council 25 Trustee Becky Strzechowski.

Teamsters Local 700 represents more than 10,000 public employees across Illinois including firefighters at the Niles Fire Department, Roberts Park Fire Department, Summit Fire Department and Prospect Heights Fire Department. Local 700 is an affiliate of Teamsters Joint Council 25, America’s premier labor union for Chicago, Illinois and northwest Indiana.