

## **Tech Notes - News for Technical Unit Members – 6/6/2025**

This section of the newsletter is dedicated to the issues being faced by our State of Michigan Technical Unit members.

### NASHTU Conference

Technical Unit President Rod Jackson and former President George Heath will be attending the National Association of State Highway Transportation Unions (NASHTU) conference June 23 - 25, 2025 in Washington D.C. Topics for discussion include the sub-contracting of member's work at MDOT and how it affects the workers and taxpayers.

### Labor Relations

We successfully helped a worker return to work after a positive drug test due to the employee not being aware food and drinks were spiked. We negotiated a return to work on a Last Chance Agreement with random follow up testing for 2 years.

### Special Pays

The negotiated special pays for Pharmacy Assistants, Dental Hygienists, and Radio Technicians are expected to go into place on October 1, 2025, provided the State budget process is completed before then. It is usually done by the end of summer.

### Pension

While we were unsuccessful in getting a defined benefit pension reinstated for state employees during the past legislative session, we did work with other public sector unions in getting it proposed. By placing it front and center, we can push for additional financial reviews to determine costs to the State of implementing pensions in the future.

### Civil Service Commission

Former Scientific and Engineering Unit President Dave Berridge has been appointed to the Civil Service Commission. He and the other commissioners have already issued changes that will allow unions to have a right to negotiate the return of some previous prohibited subjects of bargaining.

In 2019 transfer rights, seniority, assignment, overtime assignment, layoff/recall, were removed from our contract by Commission action. The new Commission has taken action by proposing to repeal that action at their May meeting and are looking to reinstate our right to negotiate these items. The proposed changes are currently in the comment period. Any comments you would like to make to support reinstating the Union's ability to negotiate these rights can be made by emailing the Commission at: [civilservicecommission@michigan.gov](mailto:civilservicecommission@michigan.gov)