



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 25, 2023

OPEIU LOCAL 39 SENDS NOTICE OF POTENTIAL DISRUPTION TO CREDIT UNION CUSTOMERS

Madison, WI -- On January 24th, the Office and Professional Employees International Union (OPEIU) Local 39 sent a letter to more than 7,000 credit union leaders across the United States. The letter warned that there could be a potential disruption of financial services with vendor CUNA Mutual Group (CMG) due to a labor dispute regarding contract negotiations between CMG and 450+ employees represented by OPEIU Local 39. The letter explains,

“Our Union has been engaged in bargaining for a labor contract with CUNA Mutual Group (CMG) on behalf of their main office staff of 450 employees for the past ten months. We have been working without a contract in a good faith attempt to reach an agreement, and while we have made significant movement on our proposals, CMG has been unwilling to make the same commitment to its employees.”

Sarah Larsen, an Administrative Specialist and member of the Union's bargaining committee, says the decision to go to the customers came as negotiations with CMG have stalled. “We've been bargaining for 10 months and they aren't taking our proposals seriously. They are using delaying tactics instead of bargaining in good faith. CMG is asking for concessions on our pay, healthcare, and pension despite being in the best financial position in the Company's history.”

A central issue at stake for the Union has been the outsourcing of company positions represented by the Union. Joe Evica, a Retirement Services Specialist and Chief Steward for the Union, explains, “In twenty years CMG has outsourced 1,200 jobs while it makes record profits. It affects the integrity of the systems we use to protect sensitive data. We need to protect both strong, good paying jobs and the quality of the services we provide.” The Union lists four central issues that must be addressed:

- Prevent further outsourcing of US-based jobs and return work from outside contractors
- Preserve the employees' existing cash-balance pension plan
- Wages that keep up with inflation
- Healthcare plans that meet the needs of the membership

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