



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: STRIKE DEADLINE SET FOR MAY 19<sup>th</sup>**  
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Madison, WI – The Office and Professional Employees International Union (OPEIU) Local 39, the Union representing approximately 450 employees at CUNA Mutual Group (CMFG), has announced a strike deadline for May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The Union held a strike authorization vote in April, with members voting 92% in favor to allow the Union’s bargaining committee to call a strike if they deemed it necessary. On Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, OPEIU 39 leadership announced its decision to the membership that the strike would proceed,

*“At this time we have not seen the movement we need from CMFG to avert an unfair labor practice strike. After much consideration, and with respect to the needs of our membership to properly prepare, **our bargaining committee is officially calling the Unfair Labor Practices strike to begin Friday, May 19th, if we cannot reach a fair agreement with our Employer by then.**”*

CMFG’s negotiators requested mediation shortly after the Union’s authorization vote in April, which the Union agreed to. Mediation is non-binding and takes place through the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Services (FMCS). The Union and Company met for an initial session on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023 to set dates for mediation. Chief Steward Joe Evica explained,

*“**Our Union put forward 10 full days to bargain between May 5<sup>th</sup> and May 18<sup>th</sup>. We offered to meet virtually, during the workday and on the evenings and weekends without bargaining pay for all 10 days. The Company rejected every day our Union put forward except May 10<sup>th</sup> and May 16<sup>th</sup>.**”*

At the mediation session on May 10<sup>th</sup>, the Union’s bargaining committee presented a comprehensive proposal making significant movement. Although CMFG did not have a response to the proposal at the May 10<sup>th</sup> session, the Company did propose two additional dates before the strike deadline.

In his update to the membership on May 15<sup>th</sup>, Chief Steward Evica reiterated that the Union’s bargaining committee is hopeful that mediation could still be fruitful enough to avert a strike, “We are 100% committed to reaching an agreement if that is possible.” The parties are slated for mediation on three days this week: May 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup>.

Sarah Larsen, an administrative support specialist and member of the Union’s bargaining committee explained, “For more than four hundred days we have been without a contract. We’ve tried by every means possible to negotiate and move the company towards our members’ core priorities. We can honestly say we have exhausted every option and a strike is the only thing left to do.”

“The threat of a strike is what made the company sit down for mediation. We gotta keep the pressure on to make sure that they’re serious about a deal,” said Will Roberts, a multi-media specialist and member of the Union’s contract action team. If there is sufficient progress, the Union can still call off the strike.

Picket lines will be held from 7am to 6pm at CMFG’s offices on Mineral Point Road while the strike is in effect. Additional information will be posted on the Union’s website: <https://opeiu39.org/CMGUnited.aspx> #####

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