

**NAATS HQ E-Mail Update Vol. 5 #32**  
**May 20, 2005**

Congratulations to those individuals who received offers this week, there were approximately 119 offers made. If you did not get an offer, the second round of job offers are expected sometime in June. You may also receive an offer in the coming week if people turn down the offers they've gotten. I realize this is just a small number of jobs, and I can only hope this is just the beginning of people being placed.

The final briefing was sent over to ODRA today and now we wait for Judge Neill to make his decision. Believe me as soon as I hear anything I will get it out to you, this has been a very long and painful process. How you all have continued to do your jobs in the face of all this still amazes me.

Scott Malon is hand delivering an information request on Tuesday to Labor Relations to get answers on several fronts surrounding the bids and selections. When he has the letter signed and delivered, I'll ask Jose to post it on the web page for you all.

The latest I have on the swaps is that everything has been put on hold. I don't know why, waiting responses from Jim Washington and Ventris Gibson. Phil Brown and I had a telcon last week about swaps to/from Alaska with Jim and Judy H. and the last we knew they agreed with the swaps but Jim had to talk to Ventris.

While we're talking about Alaska, if you have bid on a job and get selected, please be sure you know which facility it's for. They should be putting people in the AFSS' up there, but you could end up in one of the FSS' that decision has not been made yet. Not that the FSS' are bad places, but the living in the area may not be what your used too. Please be sure to ask questions so you don't end up in a worse situation.

Wally doesn't have any news on the congressional front, all issues 1.7%, the bills in the house and senate all still working. He will probably have a further update after Memorial Day.

There have been some further questions surrounding the information that went out this week on affiliation. At the end of this update, there are more questions and answers for you. I'll ask you to look at the information surrounding NAGE and not some of the politics to make an informed decision. This is completely up to you the membership which way we go, there have been no documents signed.

Next week I'm off to Iowa to meet with the members in FOD and then do a radio interview in DSM the next morning. Thanks to Vic and Jerry for setting that up, I look forward to meeting the folks there.

Can I rant a bit now, if you don't want to hear it, just move to the questions and answers! I was part of a panel at an A-76 seminar this week to give the union perspective and I discovered a couple of interesting details. OMB has given the FAA \$150 million dollars for transition costs and Joann Kansier briefed that the savings from this award is now \$1.7 Billion dollars over 10 years instead of \$2.2 Billion. Wonder what happened to the other half a billion in just a couple of months, at this rate by October there will be no savings! Actually if you do the math, FAA is saying it costs \$500 million to run flight service annually, however this A-76/acquisition covered only about \$350 million of that. So if you take the other \$150 million off for 10 years you get \$1.5 Billion so now the savings is down to \$200 million for 10 years. The cost of people to take weather obs is now going to cost \$1 million a year, that's without any housing costs, just to hire the people to do the job. The discontinued/realigned activities list is still 96% untouched so they are now asking LM to pick up some of those duties, don't know how much extra that will cost and the rest I'm sure will get shoved off on another bargaining unit, who make more than we do. All in all this debacle is going to cost the taxpayers through the nose, not to mention the lost pensions and benefits to our folks. I'm done and I feel a bit better, well not really I think I'm going to be sick.

Again to those who got job offers congratulations it's good to see at least a few getting some good news for a change. For the rest of us our good news will come in the next few weeks, hang in there.

Kate Breen

**Many people have asked for additional information from the NRT regarding affiliation. We will try to answer them in this update.**

**Question** – What other unions did the NRT talk to before recommending NAGE?

Answer – We spoke with the Teamsters, Laborers International, SEIU, NATCA, AFSCME, AFGE, IAM and we also spoke with Mike Doring's consultant group (L.I.S.). We conducted extensive research on other unions but many did not fit due to the type of work we do. Others did not fit because they had no private sector experience and others wanted only a full merger instead of affiliation. When we contacted SEIU, they directed us to NAGE. They felt that out of all of their unions, NAGE fit our situation the best.

**Question** – Did we research Arthur Fox’s allegations about David Holway’s past conduct?

Answer – We covered Arthur’s letter point by point. Having said that, we did not contact the attorney that Arthur refers to in his letter. Instead, we took Arthur at his word and went directly to the source, NAGE, asking for an explanation. What we found was that NAGE did put an affiliate Union into “trusteeship” based on questionable financial dealings. We also learned that this was only a temporary situation to protect the members until the Union in question got the situation under control. This appears to be the only incident “ever” of this type. Additionally, we contacted several NAGE affiliates and locals to ask about their experience with NAGE. Every union that was contacted had nothing but good things to say about the entire NAGE organization.

**Question** – Will our membership dues go up because of this affiliation?

Answer – No, membership dues will not increase as a result of affiliation. Please do not confuse this, however, with the per-capita fees. Although NAATS has committed to NOT raise individual membership dues, affiliation does have associated costs. These costs could be offset by the eventual reorganization and restructuring of our Union.

**Question** – How much expertise does NAGE have with NON-FEDERAL aviation-related labor issues?

Answer – NAGE has just over 15 years of experience in the private sector. None of this experience is with aviation-related labor issues.

**Question** – What is the “reply” date to submit the NAGE affiliation ballots?

Answer – Ballots are due back at NAATS Headquarters post office box by JUNE 16, 2005. Ballots will be counted on JUNE 17, 2005.

**Question** – Did NAATS contact labor Unions at Lockheed?

Answer – Yes, President Kate Breen has met with the Machinist Union and discussed a number of issues.

**Question** – Why was the statement made about Arthur Fox in #8 on page 9?

Answer – In retrospect, this may have been a poor choice of words. While we tried to be as frank and candid as possible in this update, it was not intended to be an attack on anyone. Arthur Fox has

provided years of valued service to NAATS. The fact remains, however, that NAGE does maintain a full legal staff consisting of over 20 attorneys that we will have full access to as an affiliate Union.

**While we hope this update answers at least some of the remaining questions we do not expect it to answer them all. Please contact your Union leaders or any member of the NRT with your further questions.**