

## **NAATS HQ E-Mail Update Vol. 5 #50**

### **July 29, 2005**

I apologize for it being a week between updates, but I was out sick Monday and Tuesday and seem to have spent the rest of the week catching up.

The affiliation agreement with NAGE was signed and I look forward to working with the folks from SEIU/NAGE. I know there is some uneasiness with SEIU pulling out of the AFL-CIO affiliation and I have spoken to the NAGE President David Holway, he has assured me that SEIU/NAGE has \$10 million dollars set aside for protecting members and organizing. After meeting President Holway several times and speaking with members of his Executive Board I do feel he is a man of his word and I'm confident that NAGE will do everything in their power to help us through this time. If for some reason that does not happen, we have a 30 day out in the agreement and we can proceed from there. Between SEIU and the other unions that have pulled out of the affiliation with AFL-CIO it sends a strong message that "status quo" is no longer acceptable, we all need to do what we can to protect workers rights and organize those who are now left to fend for themselves. There will be more information on this next week.

The public version of the Judge's recommendation is still not available, it should be done by next week and I'll get it out as soon as I get it. Our lead attorney on the protest has been on vacation and is due back on Monday, after he reviews the decision and forms an opinion on appealing and gets it to the BOD, they will make a decision as to whether or not to appeal. That should happen by the end of the week.

I sent a letter to LM a couple of weeks ago asking to sit down and talk now that the protest was over, but was told not until after the appeal period was over. It's the same story you all are getting when asking for further information.

Wally will have an update out in the next day or two, but we still need to be working the members of the Senate. The next few weeks will present a great opportunity to meet with them when they are home for the recess. Feel free to bring or fax you RIF papers with you so they can actually see the urgency.

I sent a letter to the new Director at OPM in regards to the 1.7% issue, if I hear nothing by mid week I'll follow up.

We are meeting with our attorney and NAGE attorney next week to start the process on successorship, just in case. Understand I have not given up, but am trying to cover all the bases at this point.

I'm going to rant a bit next on some HR issues, so if you want to stop here.....

FAA Follies – I was home in CT over the weekend and when I picked up my mail I had a certified letter card in the bunch from the DOT, my you're "reduced" papers. So I thought. I signed for the large envelope and started on my way back to DC, as I got part of the way down curiosity got the better of me and I opened the envelope. The best part is I signed for someone else's RIF paperwork, someone else got mine, and someone else got the 3<sup>rd</sup> persons. How friggin simple is it to make sure the right name goes in the right envelope. And I've heard that has happened across the country.

The next thing that really burns me up is HR used an OPM boiler plate form that only offered the option of severance pay or DSR, which gave some people a bit of a start when they looked at their paperwork. See HR didn't think it was important to have the ATC retirement included, that people wouldn't notice. How can you not think it's important, the person who made that decision is either that callous or that ignorant.

The last LM visit will be held off site, isn't that nice. Oh but wait the catch is that it's a 3 hour meeting and the FAA wants you to do it on your own time. According to folks at FAA HQ they wouldn't dare go against the NAATS/FAA MOU for giving people time to attend, oh no. However, when it comes to people putting in retirement paperwork they can go against the MOU and strip peoples time from them. The only retirement paperwork that takes away that CTA time is VERA paperwork, nothing else and Scott will be filing a national grievance on this next week. As far as the LM meetings go I guess it's more important for the agency to steal another 3 hours leave from you than do the right thing and give you admin time for that. They back you into a corner by not providing enough government jobs for those who can't retire and then they proceed to pour more salt in your wounds by taking away a few hours of leave. Another small detail, for those people down in the DC area, they get their 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting with LM in an FAA building, the bad news it's in the Office of Competitive Sourcing Conference room. I can feel the love, yes I can!

If this is any indication of how this contract is going to proceed if it wasn't so sad and hurt some many it would be fun to watch it unravel.

I'll probably have more information by mid-week, we've got a lot to do but certainly are not giving up.

Kate Breen