

A Better Tomorrow Starts Today

Round two brings new progress Negotiations Update: 2

On September 2nd, our negotiating team members continued to make progress in our second round of negotiating with the Commonwealth. We tentatively approved six new Articles for an Agreement for the Corrections, Parole and Law Enforcement unit.

The Northpoint Training Center riot on August 21st, put a strong focus on the safety issues, risks and concerns for many employees in our unit. We called on the state to recognize it as a wake-up call about why we are pushing so hard on our safety and health proposals at the table.

While there's still much to do, the movement in negotiations is a positive sign.

In Round 2, we agreed that the state will:

- ◆ Guarantee only the Personnel Cabinet may change classification specifications.
- ◆ Uphold layoff and recall rights.
- ◆ Maintain and enforce Affirmative Action and anti-discrimination protections.
- ◆ Ensures employee bulletin boards in the workplace to provide information about our rights and activities as a union.
- ◆ Guarantee the right of every employee to review his or her confidential personnel file and respond in 3 days when an employee requests this.



Our team carefully reviews proposals before starting round two with the state.

NTC riot highlights need to call legislators about public safety

After the risks and issue of state worker safety became painfully clear in the aftermath of the NTC riot, CO's and other state employees started calling legislators around the state to set up local public safety meetings with AFSCME Kentucky members.

Safety risks are a real problem for all state employees, including those who provide social services and who have seen tragic consequences. However, the Northpoint riot put the spotlight on corrections. Inadequate funding for staff and equipment were obstacles to the work of officers and staff on the night of August 21st when inmates set fire to the facility. It was the the courageous, effective and quick work of correctional officers and employees to overcome these obstacles that averted a worse situation.

You can continue to help. **Call us at 866-871-0646 to find out which legislators you can call.** Ask them to hold local public safety meetings in their districts now!

Next Negotiating Session: September 30, 2009 * Frankfort: Capitol Annex

At Gov's Council: Corrections employees reveal true cost of high health care premiums

CO's, some with family members, stood before the Governor's Employee Advisory Council on August 31st to describe the real impact of high health insurance premiums on state workers. They called for new solutions to our health care costs. The Council, known as GEAC, is charged with negotiating, maintaining and enforcing the Master Agreement that covers all state employees.

The reality for many state workers is that full family coverage, at a cost of around \$580 per month, is out of reach. For some, that would eat up most of a 2-week paycheck.

Sharon Valandingham, whose husband, Chris is a CO at the Little Sandy Correctional Complex, told the panel and Personnel Secretary Nikki Jackson that the only way her family can have any health insurance is to leave her without coverage. Yet she has faced, and continues to confront, major health challenges. "I don't know how we'll do this," she said.



CO Chris Valandingham and wife, Sharon, explain how health insurance costs hurt families at the GEAC meeting.



State employees describe toll of expensive health care to Personnel Cabinet Secretary Nikki Jackson.

Health insurance is a major issue for most state workers. Fixing it can't wait for a national health care solution.

Derek Lloyd, a CO at KSP, says he's negotiated a minimum payment plan with his doctor and hospital to pay for out-of-pocket costs after his wife had knee surgery recently. The monthly premium and payments are squeezing his family's finances despite Derek's second job.

"When we rank 49th in the nation in pay and 50th in health care," added Chris Valandingham, "there's something very wrong. We can fix this together."

Reaching out to inform legislators on issues continues

AFSCME members from the Corrections, Parole and Law Enforcement unit met with State Representatives Rocky Adkins and John Will Stacy about continuing safety concerns in Kentucky's prisons.

The legislators raised questions about the Northpoint riot and current conditions. A wide-ranging discussion covered corrections staffing, equipment and safety risks and what can be called "risk factors" that point to potential problems in facilities.

The effort by AFSCME members to reach out to legislators continues. So far, more than 45 legislators have participated in talks about issues that are important to state employees.



AFSCME members meet with State Reps. Rocky Adkins and John Will Stacy to discuss ongoing risks in Kentucky's prisons.

AFSCME Kentucky Negotiating Team Members

Jamie Lawrence, WKCC * Benjamin Burris, Adair YDC * Dennis Leonard, Blackburn * Michael Antosh, KSP * Geneva Bentley, Warren Reg. Juv. Det. * Jesse Dale Freeman, Dist. 12 Prob & Parole * Derek Nunnolley, Northern Kentucky YDC * Terry Underwood, GRCC * Tammy Evans, KSR * Justin Littrell, Dist. 8 Prob & Parole * Terrance Gibbs, KCPC (Health & Fam. Svs.) * Chris Valandingham, Little Sandy Corr. Complex * Matt Scott, Mayfield YDC * Heather Blackburn, Dist 12 Prob & Parole * Matt Hughes, Nortpoint * Ruth Joyce Smith, Lincoln Village YDC * Ramona Wilson * Audubon YDC * Michael Napier, Roederer

Get active!

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