

A Better Tomorrow Starts Today

We're On Our Way First Negotiating Session with the Commonwealth

At 8 a.m. on August 11, the elected bargaining team for Corrections, Parole and Law Enforcement employees travelled to Frankfort to meet with the Commonwealth for the first day of negotiations.

The negotiating team presented proposals contained in 39 Articles of the proposed Agreement. Topics ranged from safety and equipment, training and adequate staffing, to union rights, including free speech. The state listened to explanations of why we need changes and how this would benefit the Commonwealth.

“Our jobs require us to put ourselves in harm’s way every day. Now we have the chance to hold the Commonwealth accountable by negotiating an Agreement that gives us protections in our work place,” said Derek Nunneley, Youth Worker.

The Commonwealth, represented by Stephanie Appel, Department of Corrections Personnel Services, presented its responses. Throughout their presentation various regulations and statutes were cited that govern important areas of our working conditions. “It is clear to all of us that we must work with our legislators so that they will understand and support legislative changes needed to improve our working conditions and win a good agreement,” Terry Underwood, Corrections Officer at Green River Correctional Facility.

At the end of the day, progress was made on three Articles contained in the Agreement: Purpose, Sexual Harassment and Staffing.

This is just the beginning of a very important process. As the next sessions go forward our team will continue to tackle tougher issues – and this will require the support of our co-workers and the legislators.



Our powerful Corrections, Parole and Law Enforcement Negotiating Team ready to meet the Commonwealth.

Our Negotiating Team

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 Nunneley, Northern Kentucky YDC
Terry Underwood, GRCC
Tammy Evans, KSR

Justin Littrell, District 8 Prob & Parole
Terrance Gibbs, KCPC (Health & Family Services)
Chris Valandingham, Little Sandy Corr. Complex
Matt Scott, Mayfield YDC
Heather Blackburn, Dist. 12 Prob & Parole
Matt Hughes, Northpoint
Ruth Joyce Smith, Lincoln Village YDC
Ramona Wilson, Audubon YDC
Michael Napier, Roederer Corr. Complex

Next Negotiating Session: September 2, 2009 • Frankfort, Capitol Annex, Rm. 111

We Can't Do This Alone – We need our elected officials' support!

Throughout the Commonwealth, AFSCME members from the Health and Family Services and the Justice and Public Safety Cabinets are reaching out to our elected officials. In these discussions, legislators are getting a deeper understanding of the challenges employees face as well as the common sense solutions we're proposing at negotiations. Legislators' support is key to winning many of the improvements being discussed at the negotiating table.

Most Recent Legislative Activities

July 28. La Grange. COs – Correctional Officers – met with Rep. Rand. From old and faulty equipment, inadequate training, and low wages to a lack of affordable health insurance, COs stories filled the room. Next steps – keep reaching out to legislators and continue to build support.

July 29. Louisville. AFSCME members met with Reps. Burch, Meeks and Wayne in Louisville. Social workers underscored the lack of safety measures despite the passage of the Boni Bill in 2007. (The bill was named after Boni Frederick, a social worker who was killed on a home visit). Rep. Burch, a sponsor of the bill, invited social workers to participate in a hearing in October. Rep. Meeks also took detailed notes as COs, Probation and Parole officers and Family Support employees talked about struggles over staffing, safety and health insurance. Rep. Meeks invited employees to a larger assembly of legislators in September and has initiated an inquiry on behalf of employees.

July 31. Princeton. More than 50 people attended Rep. Cherry's lawn party where state workers also spoke with Senator Ridley and Rep. Mongiardo about safety and staffing in their facilities.

August 1. Fancy Farm. AFSCME members sought out legislators at the annual Fancy Farm event. Over the course of the day, we spoke with legislators from all over the Commonwealth.

August 8. Covington. It was a powerful exchange among AFSCME members and Senator Webb and Reps. Koenig and Simpson. Joyce Graves from Protection and Permanency set the tone as she demonstrated with hand-made visuals the daunting responsibilities that surround just one case.



Jeremy Turner, Matthew Scott and daughter, Jack Conway (Attorney General), Debbie Doran (left to right).

Get active! Call 1-866-871-0646 or visit www.AFSCMEKentucky.org



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