

Negotiations Continue

In May we reported that it was clear we would not be able to conclude an Agreement with CBE prior to the summer break and that we would focus on reaching agreement on a couple of primary interests of ours around lay-off and re-call and changes to hours of work before breaking for the summer and reconvening this fall.

We were able to finalize agreement in June on what we believe will be improvements all around with respect to lay-off and re-call and had some spirited discussions about hours of work. On September 8th we reconvened and have set a target date of mid-November to have a Memorandum of Agreement concluded for each (Main and PSS) agreement so that we have something concrete to share with you at the November General Meeting. While this may seem optimistic in view of the time taken to date, we've had frank discussions of how to accomplish it and are optimistic, certainly with respect to the non-monetary issues, that it is possible. The wild card remains money and monetary issues. We'll keep you apprised as much as possible in the interim.