

## **Contract Update – May 12, 2010**

**Under the guise of workplace “security,” Social Security negotiators want to make it much more difficult for Union representatives who are not current agency employees to enter field offices and other SSA sites.**

**“This would do great harm,” said Steve Kofahl, a member of the AFGE bargaining team. “The agency wants to prevent employees from getting the assistance they need when they need it the most.**

**“The proposal is aimed at retired Union activists who continue to work for free because they want to help the bargaining unit, and professional AFGE staff and attorneys. Management knows their proposal would be detrimental to employees, but they really don’t care.”**

**SSA officials discussed their ideas with Union negotiators during contract talks today, but Kofahl promised that AFGE would vigorously oppose the proposal.**

**The agency also hopes to impose more conditions on employees who are on extended sick leave.**

**“This would amount to harassment,” said Witold Skwierczynski, the Union’s Chief Negotiator. “Under the management plan, employees could be required to call-in every day they are on sick leave, and there’s no reason to do that. It just shows again that SSA doesn’t trust its employees.”**

**Social Security also wants employees in Mega - Teleservice Centers to be burdened with a call-in procedure for requesting leave that would be completely different from any other component. Skwierczynski calls it “the most restrictive in the country.”**

**The Union has made a number of proposals concerning religious compensatory time, national labor/management forums, leave transfer programs, and hardship details/re-assignments. So far, SSA has not responded to any of them.**

**SSA’s chief negotiator is Ken Powell and he can be reached at his agency email address: [Ken.Powell@ssa.gov](mailto:Ken.Powell@ssa.gov).**