

AFGE for

Restoring Rights,

the math is simple

SSA 

Gaining Respect,

A GOOD CONTRACT
+ GREAT EMPLOYEES
EXCELLENT SERVICE

EMPLOYEES Preserving Social Security

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Contract Update—August 30, 2010

Contract Negotiations Resume in September

After nine months at the bargaining table, representatives from AFGE and the Social Security agreed to take a break during August. Many of the Union negotiators visited SSA offices to talk to bargaining unit employees about the status of those talks..

Last month the parties exchanged proposals on a number of issues, including travel, employee rights, disciplinary actions, the grievance procedures, training, telework (working from home), and time and leave.

Agency officials have made it clear that they are not interested in discussing new articles and refused to have any discussions on labor/management forums and the disability claims taking process. Other new contract articles would include the Union's proposal for Student Loans and a Voluntary Leave Bank. SSA doesn't believe retention tools (like help with student loans) are necessary because the nation is in a recession and hiring people is easy. AFGE strongly disagrees with that attitude.

From the Union's position, the majority of new hires in SSA are young and highly educated. The cost of a college education can be exorbitant, and most new em-

ployee's are starting at the bottom of the career ladder. The agency has gone to great lengths to recruit graduates from our nation's best colleges and universities, and when a student accepts a position with Social Security and makes a commitment to serve their country and community, the Union believes SSA should do everything it can to help these employees.

If you have any interest in these new proposals, I strongly recommend that you let us know in our surveys.

AFGE will be publishing additional updates on the other issues addressed during the last bargaining session. Stay tuned...

Several AFGE Surveys will be released over the next few months. Your response to those surveys is extremely helpful to our contract negotiators. (ALL comments are reviewed!)

Please take the time to complete these surveys. You may complete them during duty time or forward to your personal email account to complete at your own leisure.

AFGE SSA GENERAL COMMITTEE, AFL-CIO

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