

Article 29

Union—Management Meetings

The Deputy Commissioner for Human Resources or designee and appropriate staff members shall meet with representatives of the American Federation of Government Employees six times a year. These National meetings ~~at SSA headquarters~~ will be scheduled on mutually agreed upon dates and may be attended by a Union representative from each of the six (6) components and the General Committee Spokesperson. **The parties agree to utilize appropriate technology, as determined by management for these meetings.**

These meetings shall be to exchange information and discuss issues dealing with personnel practices and procedures, matters affecting working conditions and other appropriate subjects. Individual grievances, complaints or any other issue in a formal appellate procedure will not be a subject of discussion at these meetings.

These 1-day meetings will be held during duty hours. ~~The Agency will pay travel and per diem for 5 Union representatives to attend this meeting.~~ All seven Union representatives, who would otherwise be in duty status, will be granted official time in accordance with the provisions in Article 30.

24 Matters proposed for discussion by either party will be forwarded to the other party at
25 least thirty (30) working days prior to these meetings.

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27 ~~The same AFGE representatives on travel status (five total) for the National Union-~~
28 ~~Management Meeting are also authorized an additional day of travel and per diem in~~
29 ~~order to attend a General Committee meeting which is held the day after the National~~
30 ~~Union-Management Meeting. Official time for these General Committee meetings will~~
31 ~~be handled in accordance with Article 30.~~

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33 Lower level committees may be established or retained by the mutual consent of the
34 parties, **utilizing appropriate technology, as determined by management.** Either party
35 may end any lower level committee by notifying the other party during the thirty (30) day
36 period following the effective date of the contract. If any lower level committee is
37 retained or established, either party may end any committee once per year during the life
38 of the contract by notifying the other party during the thirty (30) day period prior to the
39 anniversary date of the contract.

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