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Contract Update

AFGE Negotiators Begin Preparation

Union officials have spent the last two weeks preparing for contract negotiations with the Social Security Administration.

“The process is moving along,” according to Debbie Fredericksen, one of the members of the negotiating team. “We’ll be sitting down with management and discussing each article of the National Contract in just a few short weeks. At that time we’ll try to determine the interests both the Union and management have in changing the language of the contract.”

The current agreement expired in August.

“The key to success – and making this a better contract – is employee support,” Fredericksen believes. “The Union has been listening to what both employees and Union representatives have to say. We’ve been working toward an overall goal of reducing stress in the workplace

through the changes that the Union is recommending.”

“Those ideas will be passed onto management.

This process is very inclusive and for that reason everyone’s suggestions are welcome.”

Comments and recommendations can be submitted to www.mycontract2009.org. Click on the link entitled “Contact Us.” For a complete list of the Contract Negotiation Team, go to the same website and look for the “Faces and Names” icon.

Union officials will continue to work on contract proposals throughout October, and in early December, labor and management will meet in Baltimore. That will be the first session where both sides actually talk about articles in the contract.

“On December 22,” Fredericksen explains, “we will exchange written proposals and that will be another important step in the process.”

AFGE SSA GENERAL COMMITTEE, AFL-CIO

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