

## **FROM YOUR EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**April 17, 2006**

### Bargaining Update

Last Thursday, the Company declined the Union's offer to bargain around the clock commencing Thursday evening. The Company stated that it would not be prepared for further negotiations until this morning. Although the Company originally stated it would be ready to bargain beginning at 7 a.m., it did not contact the Union until approximately 10:11 a.m. this morning, and did not offer to meet until 11:00 a.m. The parties met for a brief 29 minute session.

The Company presented the AEIF with a revised proposal on Article VI (Representation) under which it seeks to reduce the number of full-time representatives, and the number of hours that full-time representatives will be released from work to perform their Union responsibilities. The Company also seeks no obligation to compensate delegates and grievancemen for their time spent in disciplinary meetings and arbitration hearings.

While the Company focused its attention upon undermining the representational abilities of your Union, the AEIF presented the Company with a revised proposal on a new Medical Article. In its revised proposal, the AEIF continues to seek the availability of disinterested, third physician review of disputes which arise when an employee's private physician disagrees with the opinion of the Company's own hired physician. This procedure is not only just, but an economical alternative to arbitration.

At the conclusion of our brief morning session, the Company indicated that it would be available to meet again at 10:00 a.m. tomorrow morning, but would meet again today should the AEIF so request. We so requested, and are scheduled to meet again at 4:00 p.m. when the Union will present revised proposals for Article I (Purpose and Scope) and Article XIII (Overtime and Allowed Time).

We will continue to press for timely resolution of our differences, but we will continue to press for an equitable agreement as well.

-Your Executive Committee