

**FROM YOUR EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**May 2, 2006**

**Bargaining Update**

The parties met today in negotiations for approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes. The AEIF presented the Company with a revised and comprehensive cover-to-cover contract proposal. The AEIF's proposal is in line with industry standards, and fairly meets the Company's so-called key economic issues. We await the Company's response.

The Company claims that it is not available to meet again until Thursday, May 4. Accordingly, the parties will meet that day at 10:00 a.m. The AEIF negotiating committee, of course, remains available to meet *every* day with the Company.

The AEIF also maintains its standing offer to engage the services of neutral Federal mediators in these difficult and important negotiations. We sincerely hope that the Company will agree to this sensible proposal.

As always, the AEIF will continue to maintain its demand for an equitable agreement.

- Your Executive Committee