

Purple Bargaining Update # 13

Purple/Union Enter into Federal Mediation

November 19, 2013

On Friday this week, ASLIU and Purple negotiators will meet in Oakland with a federal mediator to see if they can find a way through the current logjam in bargaining.

The Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service has offices throughout the country, including the one in Oakland, and is often called upon when the two sides in labor negotiations are unable to find a solution to their differences.

The union and the company both have to agree to enter into the mediation process. A mediator has no power to impose an agreement on the parties, but they are often helpful in crafting an acceptable compromise. Typically, the mediator will spend quite a bit of time learning about the outstanding issues and talking to both sides together and separately to understand the impediments to agreement. When they think they have it figured out, they will try to get the parties to look at possible solutions they may not have seen on their own.

We can't be sure that mediation will result in an acceptable contract, but we are sure that it's much better than not talking at all. We'll keep you posted on the outcome.

PMWG ASLIU Unit National Bargaining Committee:

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Margie Brooks, Oakland: National Vice Chair
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