

SOA Contract Negotiations Update

March 17, 2015

First things first, your bargaining team has **NOT AGREED TO A CONTRACT**. We have tentatively agreed to 17 out of 29 articles, most of these have been "book" or existing contract language.

We met again last week to continue negotiations but still **DO NOT** have an agreement.

I met with Governor Walker last week to talk about the challenges Local 71 faces.

Even though we understand and appreciate the current financial challenges, we do not believe Local 71 should take any disproportional cuts. All Alaskans need to do some "belt tightening". Everyone knows that oil revenues are down, hovering around half the amount needed to fund state services.

**WE HAVE NOT AGREED TO ANY MAJOR CHANGES AT THIS POINT IN TIME.**

We have reviewed your comments and have expressed your concerns on Merit Increases, Pay Increments, annual leave accruals, and health care contributions. Local 71 has taken the initiative to address the Geographical Differential issues that have plagued our members but at this point the state is still unwilling to make any movement.

We will be meeting again this week and will keep you updated.

Again, we have tentatively agreed to several contract articles but have **NOT T/A'd a CONTRACT.**

Remember, you the members, have the final say. **Local 71 members have to vote to ratify their contract.**

Thanks for your time.

Your Negotiating Team