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March 11, 2016

RE: Negotiation Update

Brothers and Sisters:

Your Union Negotiation Team met with the state team Wednesday to try and wrap up your contract. To ensure the legislature ratifies an agreement the state must deliver it to them by the 60<sup>th</sup> day of the legislative session. This year that would be Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. If it is after that, the legislature may consider it, but isn't compelled by law to do anything till the next session. While there are a number of big issues that are on the table, the state seems to be hung up on a few minor questions that have no monetary impact. Negotiations have gotten better with the participation of the commissioner's staff, but I refuse to bring anything to the membership that includes "gotchas", and the petty personal agendas that they seem to be pushing.

While I believe we should all pull together during this time of fiscal uncertainty, local 71 will accept nothing less than fair treatment.

I am hopeful that we can conclude our negotiations by next week. Remember, your **red book will still be in place** until a successor agreement is ratified by the membership.

Moen

Fraternally,

Bennis Moen

Business Manager
Secretary-Treasurer

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