

Executive Branch Bargaining —

Union Team Persevering

April 15, 2009

Members of our union have been negotiating Executive Branch contracts with five different governors since the 1970s. The economic conditions have never been more challenging than now.

Negotiations began in November 2008 on successor agreements to replace the two-year contracts expiring June 30, 2009, in all four of our Executive Branch bargaining units: Administrative Services; Professional-Technical Services; Supervisory Services; and Operations, Maintenance & Support Services.

In January, the Governor and the Legislature passed a supplemental budget addressing a \$166 million shortfall in the current budget. Lawmakers and the Governor are now addressing a projected \$838 million shortfall with the next proposed two-year budget, with the possibility of an additional shortfall ranging from \$250 million to \$500 million based on revenue forecasts. Those are real numbers and they represent severe threats to the services our members provide.

Members of our Executive Branch Union Negotiating Team understand the difficulty of bargaining contracts in such a difficult economy. Yet they also understand that Maine people are counting on public services now more than ever. Members of the Union Negotiating Team are determined to advocate for the quality services Maine people deserve.

Union Team members have been processing proposals throughout the winter and at our most recent negotiation sessions with management on April 14 and 15. Union Team members and management have set a proposal-exchange deadline of May 1 for both sides. As such, team members will deliver all of the union's proposals to management by May 1.

Negotiations with management will continue on April 28 and May 1, 19, 20, 27 and 28 with May 29 on hold if needed. Union Team strategy sessions are scheduled for April 27, 29 and 30, and the mornings of May 19, 20, 27 and 28 with May 29 on hold if needed.

Union Team members are determined to deliver fair contracts that ensure quality services and fair treatment for the workers who provide them.

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