

ASO Annual Report to the USO Membership April 13, 2006

On January 2, 2006, all employees returned to the negotiated schedule. We have earned a total of 381.144 bonus vacation hours, the first of which will be paid back in August 2007. The reclassification of the field office secretaries takes effect on September 1, 2006.

A large amount of union time and activity this year was taken up with the employer's investigation into the work of the four MEA IT programmer analysts and the actions that followed. There are seven grievances pending issues related to the employer's actions, six of which are scheduled for arbitration while the remaining one is still proceeding.

We have the following new hires: Kelly Cline (Finance), Kylie Dunn (Lansing), Qiana Harden (Flint), Elisabeth Muilenburg (Finance), Shawn Paige (MEA IT), Stephen Parker (MEA IT), and Cyndi Stiff (Allen Park).

Other changes to the bargaining unit included the resignations of Kim Fink (Houghton Lake), Bill Baugh (MEA IT) and Bob Damon (Finance). Ken Bekkering and Dan Balogh transferred from ASO to SSA at MESSA. Chris Piggott was promoted to Administrative Assistant. Terminations included Deb Langdon (MEA IT), Bob Derrick (MEA IT), and Elizabeth Richardson (Allen Park). Marjorie Stokes and Amby Fox retired.

We continue to try and resolve the grievance on leave time for employees who transfer from ASO jobs to SSA jobs at MESSA. We successfully bargained revised job descriptions for our members in the Content Delivery department. We continue to deal with on-going issues such as member discipline, evaluations, and coverage until 5 PM for the computer support technicians. There are reclassification requests pending for the membership processors, the membership coordinator, the membership trainer, specialty printer, secretary IIIs, computer support technicians and payroll clerks.

Workload continues to be an issue for many in the field and in various Headquarters departments. The field assistants and Uniserv directors will begin training on a new portion of A vectra to input the salary of every member so that dues on a percentage basis may be calculated.

Lu Battaglieri became MEA's executive director, vacating his position as MEA president. We look forward to open conversation and a positive working relationship with him as we continue to problem-solve.

ASO continues to participate in national events. On May 9-10, 2006 we will be sending representatives to the third annual NSO-NEA Labor Management Summit. ASO officers will attend the NSO National Coordinated Bargaining Council in Denver on April 21-22, 2006. There we will attend training, share information and ideas with union leaders in other states. We will also be sending 7 elected delegates to the NSO Representative Assembly (NSO's national convention) on June 9-10, 2006.

As we near the last year of this contract, we will soon be preparing for bargaining by surveying our members to determine the issues important to them and the priority of each. ASO has established a Bargaining Committee to help accomplish this task.

Respectfully Submitted

Karen Cherry
ASO President