

AFGE Local 2823 May 2023 Monthly Meeting Minutes

May 24, 2023

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*Conference line was in use.*

**CONFERENCE CALL DIAL IN:**

**720-740-9694**

**ACCESS CODE: 5290904**

**LEADER PIN: 7129**

Conference was called to order at 11:45 am by Dwayne Walker

*If you want to review the financials, please contact Daphne Coleman, treasurer for an appointment on your personal time.*

**Master Agreement Ratification:**

Article 23 covers hiring procedures for Title 5 employees at the VA. This includes cemetery workers, engineers, customer service workers, claims representatives, contracting specialists, administrative staff, and more.

The proposed revisions to Article 23 in this tentative agreement will modernize and improve the VA's hiring procedures to benefit VA workers and the veterans we serve, including:

- Revising the minimum posting period for Title 5 jobs announcements to 8 calendar days
- Clarifying procedures for how employees are ranked and selected for virtual and remote opportunities
- Providing language that makes it clear employees in "career ladder" positions are eligible for promotion
- Adding a requirement that employees' supervisors must provide a written reason for non-promotion as a result of lack of funds work with the promise of promotion reconsideration once there are changes to budget and workload
- Formally posting job openings for "details" lasting 120 days or more and filling them with competitive procedures.
- The union's position is YES; HOWEVER, YOU DO NOT HAVE TO FOLLOW THE LOCAL'S POSITION AND VOTE HOW YOU CHOOSE.

- This is a YES or NO vote only
  - 30 members voted YES
  - 0 opposed

**Misc:**

- If you have been sexually harassed or know of a person that has been harassed by management to include HR, please come forward
- Union is in receipt of complaints concerning the assignment of work specifically by Chris Farnholtz. Please let the local know ASAP
  - Complaints can remain anonymous as much as possible.
- There is a talk about employees being brought back into the office
  - Reasonable accommodations should stand and not have to be recertified UNLESS there is a change in the law.
  - OPM is pushing for 5 days per pay period for management at this time which most likely means that it will be pushed down to bargaining unit employees (BUE)
- Please document any training needs, concerns, etc. in writing every time and ensure the local is included.
- We need more PACT Act training, clarification on the prior trainings, etc. Please send Jim emails with your concerns. Punitive errors are due to begin June 1, 2023.
- Is there any word on the security of federal worker employment if a decision cannot be made on the debt ceiling limit?
  - Overtime will most likely be impacted
  - Worst case scenario, president can use the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment to raise the debt ceiling, but its more likely an agreement will be reached.
- The executive board will be on travel June 12, 2023 through June 16, 2023 for training.

Meeting adjourned at 12:11pm