Contract Negotiations Update

• By a vote of 55 to 2, the PSC membership at the RF Central Office soundly rejected management’s offer of a 2% increase for an 18-month contract extension.

• At our last bargaining session on 12/23/08, the bargaining unit informed RF management of the membership’s rejection of their proposal. The Union then received a wage proposal from management—0% the first year and 1% for each of the last two years of the contract.

• Management presented us with two (2) “options” for increasing the employee contribution to the health insurance premium, neither of which is acceptable to the committee:

  1. The percentage contribution for all employees would increase to 19% in 2010 and 21% in 2011, or
  2. The percentage contribution would remain at 17% for individuals and for the individual portion of dependent/family coverage, but would increase to 30% in 2010 for the dependent/family portion of coverage.

Increases in health insurance contributions translate directly into decreased wages. The increase in the employee contribution to the premiums collectively cost our members more than $78,000 over the life of the 2005-2008 contract.

• Management's wage proposal, if taken in isolation, would put us at 1% after 12 months instead of at 2% immediately, as was the case in their proposed contract extension. If viewed as a package with the increase in the employee contribution to the health insurance premium, the proposal is lower than 1%.

• Management has not agreed to a single non-economic proposal.

Our contract expired on 12/31/08. We offered management 16 dates in January. Of those dates, they accepted 5.

It’s time to show management that We Stand United!