

SSA GENERAL COMMITTEE
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO

Representing over 50,000 SSA employees across the nation, Puerto Rico and Pacific Islands

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May 19, 2010

Michael J. Astrue
Commissioner
Social Security Administration
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Commissioner Astrue:

On May 5, 2010 the National Council on Federal Labor-Management relations met regarding implementation of Executive Order 13522 regarding creating Labor-Management forums in the federal sector. One of the issues addressed by the Council was to review the resubmitted plans for creating forums from the 21 Agency's that had their plans rejected by the Council on April 7, 2010.

At the May 5, 2010 meeting the Council again rejected three of the resubmitted plans including the plan submitted by SSA. The Council indicated that the three Agencies would have an additional 30 days to develop acceptable plans. I understand that the deadline for submitting plans is June 8, 2010.

The primary reason that SSA has had their plan rejected by the Council is that the Council feels that an Agency national forum requires a forum at the level of recognition only with unions that are recognized at that level. Since AFGE is the only Union in SSA that has level of recognition at the national level, AFGE is the only union that should participate in a national SSA forum. SSA has had no meeting with AFGE to date regarding a plan to establish a national forum with AFGE and any other lower level forums in SSA.

In order for the Agency to fulfill its obligation to resubmit, again, a plan for the establishment of forums in SSA to the Council by the June 8, 2010 deadline, this constitutes a request that SSA meet with AFGE for the purpose of collaboration on the SSA forums implementation plan.

AFGE has orally requested such a meeting between AFGE and SSA on conference calls conducted by Milt Beever that included as participants SSA management officials, other SSA unions and management associations on 04/23/10, 04/28/10 and 05/06/10. AFGE suggests that SSA invite a minimum of 6 AFGE officials and appropriate SSA decision makers to such a collaborative meeting to discuss SSA's forums implementation plan during the week of May 31, 2010. If SSA wishes to send more than six management officials to such a meeting, AFGE requests that an equal number of AFGE officials be invited to attend. AFGE recommends that the meeting be for 2 days and suggests that such meeting be scheduled on June 2 and 3, 2010.

AFGE awaits your response.

Sincerely,

/s/

Witold Skwierczynski
AFGE/SSA General Committee

Cc: J. Gage
AFGE/SSA GC
J. Barry
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