



Science in Action

Wisconsin Science Professionals Local 3732

Supplemental July 20, 2009

Critical Furlough Update

On July 18th the WSP Representative Council met to discuss furloughs. As a result of those discussions and ongoing discussions with the State, we are finally moving toward a resolution of this issue. It is critical that members of the Science Professionals are aware of the following things:

- Very soon members will be asked to vote on this issue.
- The vote will be conducted in a secure electronic format.
- The exact form of that vote is unclear but will be resolved soon.

Why a Member Vote? -- Signing an agreement outside of our contract is of such importance that the democratic voice of the membership needs to be heard.

Why an Electronic Vote? -- A paper vote could take up to a month. The vast majority of communication between members and their representatives has stressed a need to get this done and move on, whatever the decision.

What's the Hold Up? -- On June 26th the union asked OSER questions about what they thought their options were under our contract. They promised us those answers but dragged their feet. On July 6th we finally received a *draft* of an MOU with a "sign or else" statement. We took the time to analyze it and consult our legal team; then we tried to schedule more meetings with OSER to discuss it. Meanwhile we were still waiting for the answers they promised us on the 26th. As late as July 9th they still maintained they were working on them. However on July 10th they finally told us that they had the answers but *they would not give them to us!* Since then we have met with them again and while we are still unsatisfied with their responses we believe a resolution is in sight.

Remember only 2 of over 15 bargaining units have reached any kind of agreement.

Please Help! It is essential that all members have a chance to participate in the upcoming decision. If you have coworkers that did not get this email and they believe they are a member, they should contact: membership@wspunion.org.