

**USO BARGAINING COMMITTEE REPORT
TO THE
2009 ANNUAL MEETING**

The USO Bargaining Committee has had another active year. The members of the committee have put in a tremendous amount of time for an off-bargaining year on a number of bargaining issues. The committee members are: Deb Hart (FSA Barg. Ch.), Diane Keith (FSA Pres.), Tracy Brooks (FSR Ch. Sp), Chet Murawski (FSR Barg. Ch.), Laurie Campbell (FSR Pres.), Jackie Rhodes (ASO Barg. Ch.), Karen Cherry (ASO Pres.), Jim Pavwoski (USO Crisis Co-Ch.), Donna Kendrick (SSA Barg. Ch.), Sue Silvernail (SSA Pres.), Arch Lewis (MESSA PSA Barg. Ch. Sp.), Larry Asher (MESSA PSA Barg. Ch.), Sherri Cummings (MESSA PSA Pres.), Craig Culver (USO Crisis Co-Ch.), David Stafford (MEA PSA Ch. Sp.), Chuck Agerstrand (MEA PSA Pres.), Tom Greene (USO Pres./ASO/SSA/FSA Ch. Sp.), & Dave Bowman (USO Barg. Ch.). Shelly Mossbarger as Secretary to the President has also been invaluable to the Committee.

This group has worked on everything from the current and ongoing MEA PSA Expense Account Bargaining, to the current MEA FSR Bargaining that only seems ongoing. Various letters of agreement, contract clarifications, and the possibility of filing ULP charges for the failure of union management to provide basic information to a bargaining unit needed for bargaining preparation have all been a part of the picture for the Committee this year.

Along with all of that, it is once again time to begin preparation for bargaining next year. While it is the fervent hope of the Union that we will not see a repeat of the kinds of proposals this time around that hit the table in 2007, it is absolutely necessary to be prepared for the worst, and hope for the best. USO weathered one of our darkest times in 2007, and with many of the same factors in place this year that were there then, our membership will need to stay strong, stay united, and stay committed to each other if we are going to be able to do so again.

It is for all of those needs, that I have offered my resignation effective May 31, 2009, as USO Bargaining Chair. As many of you know, this has been a difficult year for me because of my health, and I believe that USO needs to have a Bargaining Chair in place that is able to begin the planning process, and see it through to the conclusion. Rather than begin the process and then find it necessary to turn it over to another who would either have to carry on an existing plan or start over, I would prefer to turn over the duties now so that a bargaining plan can be formulated, refined, and executed with as much consistency as possible. USO deserves nothing less.

The past four years have been a mixture of highs and lows, from the unbelievable anti-union positions taken during the last round, through the divisiveness that the settlement created, to the solidarity that is, was, and always will be a part of USO. USO was created to allow the voice of unionism to be heard as one, although from many sources, within a union as an employer. The soul of MEA is our soul, and the issues of human rights that still stir the members that we serve are ours, too. That singular voice will continue to be the conscience of the MEA and USO only if we continue to listen to it, as well.

It has been my honor and privilege to serve as your Bargaining Chair. I am thankful for the opportunity and the trust that has been given by the membership. It has been an experience that I would not have missed for anything. The Bargaining Committee members listed above, and the members who have served with me over the years are some of the finest union advocates that I have ever worked with. USO is in very good hands with President Greene, the Executive Committee and the current terrific Bargaining Committee. I know that the next Bargaining Chair will have the support of a united membership to carry on a tradition of excellence in staff work and union values that will take USO through whatever the future holds.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dave

Dave Bowman
USO Bargaining Chair