



American Federation of Government Employees
Contract Alert # 1

Did you realize that August 2009 marks the expiration of the 2005 AFGE/SSA National Agreement? During the last contract negotiations it was felt that the agency's clear message was: Our major concern is not to show we value our dedicated and hard working SSA employees, it is to diminish and erode the protection of employee rights gained from past contracts. What was learned is that the key to a winning victory in 2009 is a realization that:

"We Don't Change the Message – The Message Changes Us"

During upcoming months and in preparation for the 2009 contract negotiations AFGE will be reaching out to you to ensure this time around we're focused and prepared to change our Message!

2009 Contract Preparation Includes:

- Placing Greater Value on Employee Input.
- Placing a Greater Emphasis on Your Opinions and Issues of Importance to You.
- Conducting More Timely and Informative Employee Surveys.
- Remaining Receptive to Information and Concerns Voiced to Local Stewards, Regional Representatives and Local Presidents nationwide.

Watch for regular distributions of updates and informative communications to you under a newly established "Contract Alerts" publication. The newly formed "Communications and Educations Committee" (CEC) will ensure that the word gets out to let you know when, where and how your voice will be needed as preparation for negotiations begin.

Your personal commitment to participate with AFGE by volunteering to help increase membership, communications with your co-workers and being advocates for federal employee issues will be critical leading up to these negotiations. Offering your support will ensure our success in saying that SSA employees have a strong message to send in 2009!

Change Our Thinking - Be Involved - Change Our Future 