



Inlandboatmen's Union of the Pacific

MARINE DIVISION -- INTERNATIONAL LONGSHORE & WAREHOUSE UNION
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April 23, 2019

TO: ALASKA MARINE HIGHWAY SYSTEM IBUP MEMBERS

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

With the Ferry System battle still raging and a greater outreach and education effort underway, more of our members are attending events and volunteering. On March 28th a team of IBU members went to Capitol Hill in Juneau and met with 17 different legislators. They visited legislators' offices sharing personal stories of how much customers depend on the ferry system to keep connected. This resonated with them.

Besides fighting to protect our public ferry system, the Union has been trying to bargain a new contract. Efforts to reach an agreement with state officials during the past three years have not been successful, so the old contract remains in effect while talks continue. To make more progress possible, efforts have been made to involve and educate more of our members about the need to show unity and action. On April 5th a statewide "button-up" was organized to encourage everyone to wear a "Fair Contracts Now" button.

The State has not given us a proposal with wage increases without proposing we pay more in healthcare premiums. And we have heard very clearly from our members that they do not want any concessions or take-aways in this contract. In our last session of April 17, we notified the State that we are available to bargain any time, any place up to May 15, and we will take their proposal to our members to vote.

The last proposal the Union gave to AHMS included all items we tentatively agreed to (TAs), the elimination of COLD and 2% per year for three years ending 6/30/2020. This would mean 4% upon ratification and 2% on 7/1/19. After some 30 negotiation meetings, we believe we have been more than fair with the State.

Not only does AMHS want us to pay up to 15% of our medical premiums per month, they do not want to give us a wage increase. The stated reason for their healthcare proposal is that "other State employees pay this". Unlike us, the other State employees receive continual raises through the "step and merit program" plus wage increases negotiated by their Union's.

AMHS indicated they would consider signing the current agreement with no changes, none of our TAs, no wage increases, no elimination of COLD and no increased health care premiums and the Tazlina supplement. But we want to hear from you! Please attend one of these meetings to discuss the negotiations.

Juneau: Thursday, May 9, 2019, at 6 PM at the Baranof – (snacks provided)
Ketchikan: Friday, May 10, 2019, from 3PM at Ward Lake - (Picnic)

Sincerely,

The Negotiations Committee

***Marina V. Secchitano, Earling Walli, Trina Arnold, Robb Arnold,
Krissel Calibo, Swiatu McLaurin, Joanne Smichko, Mark Slichter***

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