

Union ★
Update

OPEIU
Local



For Local 8 Members at Washington Federation of State Employees

June 5, 2020

UMCC UPDATE

Our UMCC team met with WFSE leadership again on May 29, 2020, to bargain the newly created NEO Coordinator position into the bargaining unit. Leanne Kunze, Executive Director, stated it was management's position that it was not going to be part of the bargaining unit. The Union team attempted repeatedly to engage leadership in a conversation about why they believed the position would be excluded, but leadership provided no hard facts to support their position. It is clear to all field staff that the work this position would be tasked with came directly out of bargaining unit members' hands. It is the work the Council Representatives created from which the NEO Coordinator position has been built. We questioned leadership repeatedly why they believed this position should not be in the bargaining unit, but no fact-based responses were provided. Instead, management stated that "We need a formal remedy." We conveyed our disappointment in leadership's response and will be filing a grievance as well as reviewing all other legal options available to us to ensure our bargaining unit work remains in the bargaining unit.

Our team also discussed the potential reorganization and were provided little information on what this looks like, who lands where and when it is all actually going to happen.

OPEIU staff representatives have not been provided anything in writing regarding the potential reorg and were informed the finance committee

still needed to meet one more time to approve. Based on several statements made in the meeting, leadership plans on making some significant changes to your working conditions. All changes are mandatory subjects of bargaining.

Some of the changes stated by leadership include:

- Added more field supervisors and created a new region in the Southwest to include CR and MCR staff
- Added more admin assts which are currently outside of the bargaining unit
- MCR staff being made to go out into the field
- Leadership proposes to merge all Lead CR and CR/MCR staff into one group for pay purposes, but no explanation of what that means for changes of duties for all Lead CR/MCR and other CR/MCR staff
- Adding positions, including another MCR, but no definitive answers about other positions in the field offices including adding more field staff

We have sent management a comprehensive information request along with our demand to bargain on June 2, 2020 and notified them of the need to convene another UMCC meeting to bargain these impacts.

For any questions please contact Erin Adamson at 206-441-8880 ext. 105 or erin@opeiu8.org, or Angie Wedekind at 509-306-0586 or angie@opeiu8.org



OFFICE AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION LOCAL 8

1-800-600-2433 or 206-441-8880 ★ Fax: 206-441-441-0207 ★ www.opeiu8.org

Find us on



www.facebook.com/OPEIULocal8

psiel#1239/a