

Members,

I wanted to provide an update on the status of the Missed Step Increase National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) trial that occurred this week. We met on Tuesday, June 11, but we didn't have a court reporter, so the Administrative Law Judge released the parties for the day at 10:00 am.

We met again on Wednesday, June 12, at 9:30 am and started the trial. Sandia immediately argued that the Union had not proven its claim of "Bad Faith Bargaining" and "Interference" and wanted the judge to dismiss those claims. He ruled that he wanted to hear testimony from the witnesses, overruling Sandia's objection.

The NLRB attorney called Kelly O'Bryant, Senior Manager of Workforce Effectiveness, as our first witness. The rest of the day was spent hearing testimony from Ms. O'Bryant about what occurred during the 2021 negotiations. She testified that it was her sole decision to deny the Union's request to extend the contract. It was also her sole decision to withhold the October 2021 step increase and stop dues deductions. The day ended with no other witnesses being called.

The judge announced that he was not available to hear more testimony for the remainder of this week. Therefore, we intend to resume the trial during the week of June 24. At that time, the Union will call a couple more Sandia witnesses and then Phyllis Rutka and I will provide our testimony in this case.

If you have any additional questions about this issue, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Regards,
Kelley Allen
President/Business Manager

OPEIU Local 251