



NFFE Forest Service Council

Master Agreement Negotiations Team

Update - May 1, 2009



Union Prepares to Negotiate New Master Agreement

Preparation for upcoming negotiations of the new Master Agreement (MA) was kicked off in Denver, April 20-24, 2009. The union and management teams became acquainted, reviewed the interest-based negotiations process, developed ground rules, and made prework assignments.

The current MA between the Forest Service and the NFFE Forest Service Council expires on June 2, 2010. Management has indicated that they wish to re-negotiate a large number of articles. Defending and seeking to improve the gains that we've made over the years through negotiations is the most fundamentally important work that your Council does. Many rights that employees take for granted are based on the MA. Many more rights have real meaning because the MA provides a mechanism for enforcement. Our MA is the foundation upon which everything our union does is built. Negotiations will begin July 26 - August 8, 2008 in Denver.

We have assembled a strong negotiations team. Team members are Forest Service employees just like you who have stepped up to serve their fellow employees through participation in our union. They will be spending long weeks away from their families to fight for the rights of all of us in the workplace. To a man and to a woman, they are happy and proud to do so. Please join me in thanking them for their service. Even better, ask an officer at your Local how you can help make your union stronger and more effective.

In solidarity,

Ron Thatcher
Chair, NFFE FSC Master Agreement Negotiations Team

LINKS:

[Current Master Agreement](#)

[NFFE FSC Website](#)

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NFFE Forest Service Council Negotiations Team: Lonnie Lewis, Steve Flory, Eric Plimmer, Chris Feutrier, Dave Stamey, Karen Mora, Melissa Baumann, Mark Davis, Betsy Evans, Ron Thatcher (Chair).