

AFGE TSA COUNCIL 100

CBA NEGOTIATIONS

WEEKLY UPDATE

ISSUE 7



Your AFGE Bargaining Council has reached beyond the halfway point of collective bargaining between the Union and management. Negotiations have been on pace to complete the minimum requirement—despite some setbacks of the Determination and agency resistance. As usual, your bargaining team is fighting for your ability to be dignified and valued at work.

The great abolitionist Frederick Douglass (1818-1895) stated, “Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will.” When an entity, whether a corporation, government agency, or group of a privileged few, controls the entirety of a process, its unchecked power drapes its oppressive tentacles over every individual under its shadow.

In today’s environment, Federal employees are under immense attack from those who would seek to destroy the fruits of their labor through exploitation of their love of country by forcing them to choose between their careers and poor working conditions with little to no on-the-job rights. Moreover, TSA bargaining unit employees have suffered under an oppressive management regime aimed at undermining employee rights, such as full collective bargaining and basic workplace protections. Remember, the agency is afraid of the Union and our power, or it would not continue to repeal the rights we have fought for and won.

Over the last decade, TSA has refused to relent on improving working conditions for its 46,000 bargaining unit employees; only through the perseverance and hard-fought negotiations has the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) Council 100 been able to maintain some dignity for its bargaining unit employees.

Currently, AFGE Council 100 is negotiating its historic third collective bargaining agreement with TSA; however, TSA’s Administrator has allowed for regressive changes through his most recent Determination, which took away an employee’s ability to have a say in their workplace through their Union. However, we will not be deterred—no matter what!

Frederick Douglas concluded, “The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppress.” As long as employees are unwilling to collectively engage in information-gathering and taking positive off-the-job actions, involvement in legislative measures, and standing up for their coworkers as well as their own rights, employers such as TSA will thrive in imposing adverse conditions upon its workforce. It is only through the membership and leaders of AFGE that we can collectively and effectively eradicate the scales that have been tipped against us—and in favor of this, and other, government agencies.